

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



**RECIPIENT:** U.S. Department of Energy - Wind Energy Technologies Office

**STATE:** DC

**PROJECT TITLE:** Wind Turbine Materials Recycling Prize

| Funding Opportunity Announcement<br>Number | Procurement Instrument<br>Number | NEPA Control Number                               | CID<br>Number |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| NA   | NA                               | GFO-Wind Turbine Materials Recycling<br>Prize-001 |               |

**Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:**

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

**A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination**

Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

**B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects**

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to authorize the administration of a prize competition (Wind Turbine Materials Recycling Prize, or "Prize") to develop a cost-effective and sustainable recycling industry for two high-impact categories of wind energy materials: fiber-reinforced composites and rare earth elements. The Prize is a two-phase competition being launched by the Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) in support of the Wind Energy Technology Recycling Research, Development, and Demonstration program that was defined by the Energy Act of 2020 and appropriated funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Phase 1 of the Prize (Initiate!) would have up to 20 winners who would then be invited to compete in Phase 2 of the Prize (Accelerate!) where up to six awardees would be selected. Phase 1 seeks concepts which have the potential to meet the goal of economically self-sustaining recycling solutions for wind materials so would consist of planning, identification, and estimation activities. All work in Phase 1 would be limited to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities such as data analysis and document preparation.

Phase 2 activities would include a description of work completed to date, voucher use, and intended market; completion of a prototype demonstration; preliminary life cycle assessment and technoeconomic analysis; and commercialization plan. Prototype demonstration would be a bench-scale proof of concept laboratory test of the proposed recycling process. While specific awardees and laboratory locations are not known at this time, it is expected that activities would occur within existing facilities/laboratories designed for the types of activities proposed; therefore, no modifications, new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations are expected to be necessary. No ground disturbing activities, no changes in the operation of existing facilities, and no installation of equipment outdoors are expected for Phase 2 activities. Activities are expected to occur in laboratory settings with dedicated proper non-hazardous and hazardous materials handling and disposal practices that would comply with all pertinent federal, state, and local environmental regulations to ensure the activities would pose no risk to the public.

Based on a review of the Prize Official Rules and a description of anticipated Phase 1 and 2 activities, DOE has determined that no significant impacts to resources of concern are expected as a result of the Prize activities.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO)  
NEPA review completed by Casey Strickland, 7/12/2023.

**FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS**

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/12/2023

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_