

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



**RECIPIENT:** DEFENSEWERX

**STATE:** Mult

**PROJECT TITLE:** DOE Voucher Program: Voucher Opportunity 5 – Commercialization Support (FECM)

**Funding Opportunity Announcement Number**    **Procurement Instrument Number**    **NEPA Control Number**    **CID Number**  
GFO-VoucherOpp5OTT-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.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations**

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

**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:

A8 Awards of certain contracts.

Awards of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to establish a partnership intermediary agreement (PIA) with and to provide funding to DEFENSEWERX. PIA activities would enable DOE to expand its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem to address gaps facing companies, organizations, and communities seeking to engage with DOE and develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission. DEFENSEWERX, as the partnership intermediary (PI), would work with DOE's Office of Technology Transitions (OTT), National Laboratories, and other programs. Activities would involve the issuance of vouchers which would support activities in areas of interest.

DOE previously completed one NEPA Determination (ND) (OCED-PIA-001-CX; A8, A9, A11, B3.6; 05/02/2023) which applies to four previously proposed Voucher Opportunities (VOs). This ND (GFO-VoucherOpp5OTT-001) applies to an additional opportunity: Voucher Opportunity 5 (VO-5) – Commercialization Support. VO-5 would focus on providing commercialization support addressing risks faced by carbon management companies with technologies at earlier stages in development. VO-5 would involve collaboration with DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM).

PI activities would include facilitating and managing innovation hubs and public-private partnerships; performing technology and market research and scouting; acting as an independent facilitator between project proponents; facilitating rapid prototyping, demonstration, deployment, and manufacturing of materials and equipment. Vouchers would support activities of an analytical and intellectual nature, including data analysis, modeling, and design. Some proposed activities to be supported by vouchers may include laboratory activities to evaluate technology performance. Laboratory activities would be conducted at existing, purpose-built facilities.

Proposed activities to be supported by vouchers may involve field testing, facility modifications, or ground disturbing activities. While it is anticipated that such activities would not have significant impacts on the human environment, such activities would be reviewed by DOE to verify that this ND (GFO-VoucherOpp5OTT-001) is sufficient or if additional review would be required. Such activities would be submitted by the PI or OTT for review.

Activities could involve typical hazards associated with laboratory operations, field testing and operations, and facility modifications, including handling and use of hazardous materials, operation of potentially hazardous equipment and vehicles, and site-specific environmental hazards. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed to mitigate hazards to acceptable levels. Mitigated hazards would pose negligible risks to the public and environment. All activities would comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

This ND applies to all proposed activities, however, any proposed activities to be supported by vouchers which would involve field testing, facility modifications, or ground disturbances are to be reviewed by DOE to ensure this ND is applicable to such activities. Such activities may be subject to additional review.

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

DOE may issue voucher opportunities and mechanisms to provide financial support through the partnership intermediary agreement (PIA) with DEFENSEWERX or other partnership intermediaries (PIs) in the future. Such activities would be subject to additional NEPA review.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Proposed activities to be supported by vouchers which would involve field testing, facility modifications, or ground disturbing activities must be reviewed by DOE to determine if ND GFO-VoucherOpp5OTT-001 applies to such activities. A summary of the activities, locations, and project proponents must be emailed to [gonepa@ee.doe.gov](mailto:gonepa@ee.doe.gov) (Golden Field Office NEPA Division) for review. After completing a sufficiency review, DOE will notify project proponents that the ND GFO-VoucherOpp5OTT-001 is applicable or if additional review is required.

DOE may issue voucher opportunities and mechanisms to provide financial support through the partnership intermediary agreement (PIA) with DEFENSEWERX or other partnership intermediaries (PIs) in the future. Such activities would be subject to additional NEPA review when sufficient information is available for DOE to conduct a meaningful analysis of potential impacts to the human environment.

Notes:

Office of Technology Transitions (OTT)

This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Dan Cahill, 08/01/2023.

## 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.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Andrew Montano Date: 8/1/2023  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager