

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



RECIPIENT: IACMI

STATE: TN

PROJECT TITLE : Clean Energy Manufacturing Innovation Institute for Composite Materials and Structures

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000977	DE-EE0010659	GFO-0010659-001	GO10659

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.

B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment

Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.

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 provide funding to the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI, or the Institute), a Manufacturing USA® Institute under the 2019 Manufacturing USA® Program, to help revitalize American manufacturing and support domestic manufacturing competitiveness. The Institute is planned as a consortium to be reestablished under a Cooperative Agreement with DOE with participation of subrecipients comprised of private companies, universities, and other educational institutions, as well as other state and federal government agencies and research organizations with complementary business and economic development interests, extensive existing infrastructure, and broad technical capabilities. The Institute and its subrecipients are committed to a partnership that would work in concert through Cooperative Agreements to leverage the federal funding with state government and private sector investments to deliver outcomes to advance manufacturing within the United States. DOE's overarching role would be to facilitate the reestablishment of the Institute and provide oversight and stewardship of federal funds. DOE would have substantial involvement in the Institute during its term of the DOE Cooperative Agreement. This project has five budget periods, but only project activities within Budget Period 1 (BP1) have been defined. This NEPA Determination is specific to BP1 only. Further NEPA review would be required for the remaining budget periods once those activities have been defined and negotiated.

The Institute would provide open access to shared research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) facilities that leverage extensive existing capabilities to develop high-throughput technologies and lower-cost materials to enhance U.S. competitiveness. The Institute's overall technical objectives would also target increased production speed,

decreased manufacturing cost, reduced embodied energy of products and enhanced recyclability. The Institute's technology development and demonstration programs would be driven by major industry participation with focus on reducing technical risk and addressing technical challenges for advanced composites in vehicles, wind energy, and hydrogen storage. Participating states would engage their economic development and education programs to encourage new business formation and develop a capable workforce to serve the growing composites industry. Lastly, encouragement and development of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) industry participants and long-term sustainability would be key objectives of the Institute.

Each task/subtask in BP1 would be completed by either the prime recipient or one of the project partners (subrecipients). For the project partners listed in question 2b of the completed Environmental Questionnaire (EQ1), the scope of work for proposed activities in BP1 are generally laboratory scale operations, data analysis and modeling, workforce development, or educational, managerial, and reporting activities. The location of the facilities and description of proposed activities for the prime recipient and each sub-recipient is detailed within question 2b of the completed EQ1 for the project. Once identified, additional projects would be added to the list of participants in the award as additional entries in question 2b and would be incorporated as new partners into the Institute. As these specific sites are identified with these new participants and as long as these additional entries conform to the rationale and CX categories applied in this NEPA Determination then no additional NEPA review would be required. Any new partners that do not fit the above would be required to submit separate EQ1s for further review. None of the activities occurring at any of the listed facilities or activities anticipated to occur as part of the additional projects would require any new permits, licenses or authorizations for BP1 activities. No new waste streams or effluents would be produced as a result of the proposed activities in BP1. All facilities would conduct activities consistent with current operations and would not be expanded or modified in BP1. Equipment acquisition, maintenance, upgrades, and calibration are planned in BP1, but no facilities or operational modifications are anticipated as a result.

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:

Budget Period 1

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

Budget Period 2 through Budget Period 5

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

The Recipient is required to consult with the DOE Project Officer and NEPA Specialist regarding any project, beyond what is proposed in this NEPA determination, that would result in:

- changes in function, use, or operation of existing facilities, and/or
- modifications to existing facilities, and/or
- ground disturbing or new construction activities

prior to initiating any of these activities in order to determine whether additional NEPA review is required.

Notes:

Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office
This NEPA Determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
Prepared by Andrew M. Montano, 8/18/2023

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:  Casey Strickland Date: 8/21/2023
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