

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



RECIPIENT: Project InnerSpace

STATE: MA

PROJECT TITLE : A United Front to Build the Future of Geothermal: Unlocking a Green Drilling Boom With an All Hands on Deck Approach

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002776	DE-EE0010672	GFO-0010672-001	

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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Project InnerSpace to convene stakeholders across geothermal and oil and gas (O&G) industries and perform a series of road mapping exercises and cross-disciplinary engagements to define a prioritized list of actions to support the adaptation of O&G technology to geothermal drilling.

The proposed project was selected under the first phase of DOE's Geothermal Energy from Oil and Gas Demonstrated Engineering (GEODE) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), which solicited an administrator to form the "GEODE consortium" and develop a roadmap to address technology and knowledge gaps in geothermal energy, leveraging technology and best practices from the O&G industry. Under additional phases of this FOA, DOE would fund research and development (R&D) that addresses those gaps. Project InnerSpace has been selected to receive funding for only Year/Budget Period (BP) 1 activities. Potential activities in Year 2-5 have not been fully defined at this time. This NEPA determination applies only to BP1 activities conducted under award number DE-EE0010672.

No laboratory or field R&D would be carried out as part of the proposed scope of BP1, which would consist solely of analytical, academic, and intellectual work with the goal of knowledge sharing across industries. Associated activities would include literature searches, data analysis, computer modeling, conceptual designs, feasibility studies, document preparation, and dissemination of results. All BP1 activities would be conducted in existing meeting rooms, offices, and/or conference centers by Project InnerSpace along with subrecipients the Society of Petroleum Engineers and Geothermal Rising. Based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

Year 1/Budget Period 1

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

Year 2-5

Notes:

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:  _____ Date: 10/5/2023
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