

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



RECIPIENT: [Liatris Inc.](#)

STATE: MD

PROJECT TITLE : [R-5+ Retrofit Cladding System With Low-Cost Clay Cellulose Insulation](#)

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
<a href="#">DE-FOA-0002788</a>	<a href="#">DE-EE0010903</a>	<a href="#">GFO-0010903-001</a>	<a href="#">GO10903</a>

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 provide funding to [Liatris Inc.](#) for the planning, development, and demonstration of a prototype insulated siding product that would have thermal properties of >R5/ inch, while keeping installed costs below current market alternatives.

This award would be executed over 3 Budget Periods and 7 Tasks. This ND covers activities in Tasks 1 through 6 of the approved Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO). Field test sites for demonstrations would be identified during Task 6. Demonstration activities in Task 7 cannot be evaluated until the demonstration locations are identified. Currently there is not enough information to complete a review of the activities listed under Task 7. Once Task 6 is complete, another NEPA review will be required to assess potential impacts associated with Task 7.

Activities in Tasks 1 through 6 would include stakeholder outreach, lab research, designing, planning, analysis, and lab-testing prototypes. All activities would occur within pre-existing, purpose-built research and development facilities in Rockville, MD. No physical modifications to existing facilities, ground disturbance, or permits would be required.

Existing corporate health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed at all facilities, including personnel training, proper personal protective equipment (PPE), engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments. Project activities would occur entirely within existing, purpose-built facilities; therefore, no adverse impacts to sensitive resources are expected as a result of the proposed activities.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

- [BP1 \(all tasks\)](#)
- [BP2 \(all tasks\)](#)
- [BP3 \(Tasks 5 & 6\)](#)

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

BP3 (Task 7)

Notes:

Building Technologies Office (BTO)  
NEPA review completed by Amy Lukens, 10/13/2023.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

 Electronically Signed By: **Casey Strickland**  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 10/13/2023

**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: \_\_\_\_\_