

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



RECIPIENT: Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station; Oklahoma State University; San Francisco State University; Georgia Tech Research Corporation; Lehigh University **STATE:** Mult

PROJECT TITLE : Gulf Coast COE; Great Plains COE; Western Region COE; Lehigh and WVU COE

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002866	DE-MS000022-26	GFO-MS000022-26-001	

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.

Rationale for determination:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to five awards as part of the Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) award program, a university internship program that has been funded by DOE since 1977. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has directed the IAC program to be expanded into community colleges and union trade centers. In anticipation of this expansion, the Centers of Excellence FOA (DE-FOA-0002866) selected five legacy IAC university programs to act as Centers of Excellence (COEs). The COEs would exist as a resource to assist new IACs build administrative scaffolding and provide quality assurance oversight and mentorship to fledgling IAC internship programs.

Project activities at each of the COEs are similar in scope so this NEPA review will consider potential impacts associated with all five awards. Each award will consist of five annual budget periods where for each budget period the scope of work is the same or very similar.

The five selected awards for COEs are:

- DE-MS000022 – Texas A&M University
- DE-MS000023 – Oklahoma State University
- DE-MS000024 – San Francisco State University
- DE-MS000025 – Georgia Institute of Technology
- DE-MS000026 – Lehigh University

All project activities associated with the COEs would consist exclusively of intellectual, academic, analytical activities and technical advice/assistance such as outreach, communication, training, and monitoring programs of an academic/training nature. No construction activities would be included as part of any selected project. DOE does not anticipate impacts to resources of concern from project activities associated with the five awards selected for financial assistance through the Centers of Excellence FOA.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

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.

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** Date: **10/18/2023**
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