



## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination Categorical Exclusion

**Recipient:** Taft Carbon Capture, LLC

**State:** Houston, Texas; The Woodlands, Texas; Hahnville, Louisiana

**Project Title:** Cypress Carbon Capture

**Funding Opportunity Announcement Number:** DE-FOA-0002738

**Award Number:** CD-0000008

**OCED NEPA Control Number:** OCED-00008-001-CX

**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:**

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPENDIX, NUMBER, AND 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:** OCED is proposing to provide funding to Taft Carbon Capture, LLC in support of the Cypress Carbon Capture project. The proposed project is the completion of a front-end engineering design (FEED) study to incorporate an advanced carbon-capture unit into an existing natural-gas fired, cogeneration facility. This review is for Budget Period 1 (BP1) of the proposed project. At the end of BP1, completed activities would be evaluated for approval to proceed to BP2. BP1 consists of developing a project management plan including the selection of a feasible carbon-capture technology, selection of project partners, development of a CO<sub>2</sub> transportation plan, and development of a CO<sub>2</sub> storage plan. The proposed project is limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, and analytical activities. No construction or fieldwork would be completed.

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 1501.9(e)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.1(g)(3)) 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.

DOE has determined that work to be carried out outside of the United States, its territories and possessions is exempt from further review pursuant to Section 5.1.1 of the DOE Final Guidelines for Implementation of Executive Order 12114; "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions."

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**Notes:** If the Recipient proposes to add to or modify the activities or locations described in this CX determination, those new activities/locations or modified activities/locations will be subject to additional NEPA review.

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

OCED NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Date: