



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination Categorical Exclusion

Recipient: Southern States Energy Board

State: Arkansas (Capture and Storage site), Georgia (SSEB HQ)

Project Title: Foreman Cement Plant Carbon Capture and Storage FEED

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0002738

Award Number: CD-0000010

OCED NEPA Control Number: OCED-00010-001-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 Southern States Energy Board in support of the Foreman Cement Plant Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Front End Engineering Design (FEED) project. The proposed project is the design of a CCS system to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions associated with cement manufacturing and improve the sustainability of the Ash Grove Foreman Cement Plant in Foreman, Arkansas. The project team would develop FEED studies for the capture unit, the pipeline transportation network, and the balance of the plant infrastructure. The project would be completed over two Budget Periods (BP1 and BP2) with a go/no-go decision after BP1. Budget Period 2 activities would rely on data from a new deep stratigraphic test well. The location of the well is not yet determined. As such, this NEPA determination applies only to BP1 of the proposed project which consists of analyzing storage options, developing a project management plan, and developing a community benefits plan. During BP1, only desktop analysis and paper studies would be conducted. At the end of BP1, the proposed location of the well would be identified and further NEPA review would be required before a decision to move into BP2 could be made.

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: