

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



RECIPIENT: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC)

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE: Marine Energy Feasibility Study for Remote Alaskan Villages

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FY 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending	DE-EE0010705	GFO-0010705-001	

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.)
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC) to evaluate local resources and the techno-economic feasibility of deploying marine energy generation systems in AVEC-served remote Alaskan communities to decrease their dependence on diesel fuel.

Proposed project activities include research, development, and education in the evaluation of renewable resources, human capacity, supply logistics, licensing and permitting, and economics. Task 3 would involve site characterization, field work (including acoustic doppler current profiler surveys, drone flights, and potential stream gauge installations), and community meetings within up to 10 AVEC communities. Communities would be selected during Task 2. Since the communities have not yet been identified, there is currently insufficient information to review Task 3 (all subtasks). This NEPA determination (ND) applies only to Tasks 1, 2, and 4 (all subtasks).

Office-based activities would occur at AVEC headquarters in Anchorage, AK, Ocean Renewable Power Company, Inc. (ORPC) headquarters in Portland ME, and ORPC - Alaska in Anchorage, AK.

All project work would be performed at existing, purpose-built facilities. No modifications to existing facilities, ground disturbing activities, or changes to the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would be required. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed award activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

Tasks 1, 2, and 4 (all subtasks)

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

Task 3 (all subtasks)

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office
 NEPA review completed by Melissa Parker, 02/27/24

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:  Andrew Montano Date: 2/29/2024
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