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**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Office of Electricity**  
RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

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**DOE Voucher Program: Long Duration Energy Storage Technical Assistance**  
**Voucher 7 - Long Duration Energy Storage Technology Acceleration**  
**Voucher 8 - Long Duration Energy Storage Community Development**

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to establish a partnership intermediary agreement (PIA) with and to provide funding to ENERGYWERX. PIA activities would enable DOE to expand its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy storage ecosystem to address gaps facing companies, organizations, and communities seeking to engage with DOE and develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission. ENERGYWERX, as the partnership intermediary (PI), would work with DOE's Office of Technology Transitions (OTT), National Laboratories, and other programs. Activities would involve the issuance of vouchers which would support activities in areas of interest.

PI activities would include facilitating and managing innovation hubs and public-private partnerships; performing technology and market research and scouting; acting as an independent facilitator between project proponents; facilitating rapid prototyping, demonstration, deployment, and manufacturing of materials and equipment. Vouchers would support activities of an analytical and intellectual nature, including data analysis, modeling, and design. Some proposed activities to be supported by vouchers may include laboratory activities to evaluate technology performance. Laboratory activities would be conducted at existing, purpose-built facilities.

Under Voucher 7, proposed activities will target long-duration energy storage (LDES) technology innovators, including vendors and manufacturers. These recipients will receive services such as market assessment support, business plan formulation, technical modeling or analysis, testing, performance validation, and commercialization strategy support from providers. Providers may include national labs, consulting firms, nonprofits, and technology testing centers. Vouchers are utilized as in-kind support from providers and may be used to support any electricity-in/electricity-out LDES technology (excluding hydrogen storage). Providers may have and leverage additional partnerships (such as with communities) to further support technology vendors.

Under Voucher 8, proposed activities will enable first-time energy storage deployments in communities who wish to benefit from the decarbonization, resilience, and workforce benefits of energy storage. Recipients of this program may include municipalities, tribes and tribal organization, state or local governments, community development organizations, or utilities, who are interested in deploying energy storage in their jurisdiction. These recipients will receive vouchers for in-kind support from providers for technical assistance siting/permitting support, storage project road mapping, regional modeling, energy use analysis, technical feasibility studies, technology solution decision-making, and community engagement. Providers may include national labs, consulting firms, or nonprofits. Providers may have and leverage additional partnerships (such as with technology vendors) to further support communities.

All activities would comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

DOE may issue voucher opportunities and mechanisms to provide financial support through the PIA with ENERGYWERX or other PIs in the future. Such activities would be subject to additional NEPA review when

sufficient information is available for DOE to conduct a meaningful analysis of potential impacts to the human environment.

**CX TO BE APPLIED:** The elements identified above fit within classes of action listed in Appendices A and B to Subpart D, of 10 CFR Part 1021. These appendices list DOE's categorical exclusions. Specifically:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	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.)
<b>A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations</b>	Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.
<b>B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects</b>	Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for small-scale 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.

10 C.F.R. Part 1021, App. A and B to Subpart D, §§ A9, A11, and B3.6.

**REGULATORY REQUIREMENT:** The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. 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.

Authorizing the proposed action will not (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive orders; (2) require siting of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; (4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources; or (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species.

**DETERMINATION:** Based on my review of the above information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Caitlin A. Callaghan, PhD/JD  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
Office of Electricity

Date: 26 Mar 2024