

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



RECIPIENT: City of Ithaca, New York

STATE: NY

PROJECT TITLE: Green hydrogen as a non-wires alternative (NWA): To increase flexibility, defer investment, and minimize demand on the City of Ithaca's distribution grid

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
N/A	DE-EE0010153	GFO-0010153-001	GO10153

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 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer congressionally directed spending to the City of Ithaca (Ithaca), New York to design and construct an Energy Transfer System (ETS) for the generation, storage, and utilization of renewable hydrogen for electrical and transportation needs.

The award consists of four Budget Periods (BPs) with each BP focused on a different phase of the award: (1) planning, (2) engineering, (3) construction, and (4) operation. This NEPA Determination (ND) only covers BP1 activities, i.e., planning activities. BP1 activities are necessary to provide technical and financial justification/feasibility for future budget periods. This ND does not apply to BPs 2, 3, or 4. DOE would complete the NEPA review(s) for these BPs when sufficient information is available to conduct a meaningful review.

BP1 planning activities would be completed by Ithaca at the Ithaca City Hall (Ithaca, NY) and Standard Hydrogen Corporation (Standard Hydrogen; Albany, NY). SHIFT Chain Works Owner I, LLC (Philadelphia, PA), an affiliate of SHIFT Capital, would support Ithaca and Standard Hydrogen in the planning phase. Additionally, Strategen Consulting (Sacramento, CA) would provide technical assistance to support siting and permitting of the ETS. All BP1 work would be limited to deskwork related to technical conceptual design, community engagement, and education activities and as such, DOE does not anticipate impacts on ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

Budget Period 1

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

Budget Periods 2, 3, and 4

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

An additional DOE NEPA review is required prior to starting Budget Period (BP) 2, 3, or 4 activities. BP2, 3 and 4 activities may commence once the accompanying NEPA Determination(s) resulting from the additional NEPA review(s) is obtained from DOE.

Notes:

Bioenergy Technologies Office

This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Corrin MacLuckie, 05/02/2024.

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:

 Electronically Signed By: Andrew Montano

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 5/2/2024

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:

Field Office Manager

Date: