

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



RECIPIENT: University of Alaska Fairbanks

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE: Galena Alaska Microgrid Riverine Hydrokinetics

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002845	DE-EE0011266	GFO-0011266-001	GO11266

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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) to develop a replicable community-led current energy research and development project in the Yukon River at Galena, Alaska. UAF would work with Sustainable Energy for Galena Alaska (SEGA) on this effort.

The proposed project was selected under Topic Area 2 (TA2) of DOE's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Section 41006(a)(2): U.S. Tidal Energy Advancement Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) (DE-FOA-0002845), Community-Led Tidal and/or Current Energy Planning and Project Execution. During the first phase of the project the awardee would complete the team formation effort and a community-led process to identify deployment sites of interest and key technology characteristics. DOE intends to conduct a go/no-go process upon the completion of an initial 12-month Budget Period 1 (BP1). If the proposed project advances to the second phase, additional NEPA review would be required.

BP1 activities would be limited to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities. UAF and SEGA staff would form a Galena River Energy Project Steering Committee representing local organizations and constituents. Additional activities would include literature searches for environmental baseline, resource baseline, and grid integration studies; consultation with engineering firms on grid integration constraints and opportunities; computer electrical grid simulation work for hydrokinetic system sizing, dispatch, and other factors as identified by the community; and project planning, risk assessment, and development of community priorities and requirements for hydrokinetic energy systems.

DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed award's BP1 activities.

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 (FOA TA2 Phase 1)

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

Budget Period 2 (FOA TA2 Phases 2 and 3)

Budget Period 3 (FOA TA2 Phase 4)

Notes:

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

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: _____