

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



RECIPIENT: Multiple

STATE: Mult

PROJECT TITLE: Geothermal Resources' value in Implementing Decarbonization (GRID)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0003346	DE-FOA-0003346 (all awards)	GFO-FOA-0003346-001	

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's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is issuing the "Geothermal Resources' value in Implementing Decarbonization (GRID)" Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0003346) to solicit applications from project teams focused on regional grid modeling studies that quantify the potential contribution of geothermal power to a decarbonized grid and economy. The GRID FOA addresses only one Topic Area. EERE anticipates making approximately 1-14 awards. Individual awards may vary between approximately \$500K and \$1.5M.

DOE has reviewed the FOA Requirements Document and determined that selected projects would be limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities. Desired project outcomes include reports on geothermal power representation in current integrated resource planning processes, best practice documentation, regional grid modeling study results, implementation of new metrics within grid modeling studies, and infographic materials for dissemination of project results. Applications that fall outside the technical parameters specified in the FOA would not be considered.

Based on the nature and scale of research solicited by the GRID FOA, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to any future project activities. This NEPA Determination applies to the issuance of DE-FOA-0003346 as well as all awards selected under the FOA, provided the scope of the selected awards remains consistent with the intent of the FOA as currently described. If selected applicants propose to use project funds for activities outside the scope of this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review will be required.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

This NEPA Determination applies to the issuance of DE-FOA-0003346 as well as all awards selected under the FOA, provided the scope of the selected awards remains consistent with the intent of the FOA as currently described. If selected applicants propose to use project funds for activities outside the scope of this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review will be required.

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.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Electronically Signed By: Andrew Montano Date: 5/10/2024
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