

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



RECIPIENT: Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative

STATE: OH

PROJECT TITLE: Heartland Green Energy and Manufacturing Valley Initiative

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FY23CDS	DE-EE0010145	GFO-0010145-001	GO10145

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 administer Congressionally Directed Spending to the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative to launch the Heartland Green Energy and Manufacturing Valley Initiative.

Award activities are limited to research, data analysis, feasibility, agency coordination and education and public outreach associated with the US Department of Energy's (DOE) former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in Pike County, OH. As the DOE Office of Environmental Management (DOE EM) decommissions the site, the property is proposed to be transferred through a nominal sum purchase to the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI), which is a local 501(c)(3), for the purposes of reindustrialization by means of building out an Integrated Energy System-Closed Loop Manufacturing (IES-CLM) complex. A separate Environmental Assessment and subsequent Finding of No Significant Impact was prepared by the DOE EM for the PORTS facility property transfer from the DOE to the SODI. The property transfer, is therefore not included as part of this NEPA review.

The current project tasks include site-readiness activities, which are planning-level efforts. No construction is occurring in this stage and no impact to air, emissions, wastewater discharges, solid waste, land disturbances, including wetlands, or any other environmental or cultural resource impacts are expected to occur.

All project work under the current scope would be performed with no modification of the existing facilities, ground disturbances, changes in use of facilities or outdoor equipment installations. No additional permits, licenses, or authorizations would be required. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed award activities.

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.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office
NEPA review completed by Chris Akios, 05/10/2024

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.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  _____ Date: 5/13/2024
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