

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



RECIPIENT: Florida Atlantic University

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE: Funding for NMEC Operations (SNMREC)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0011120	GFO-0011120-001	GO11120

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.
- B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment** Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.
- B2.4 Equipment Qualification** Activities undertaken to (1) qualify equipment for use or improve systems reliability or (2) augment information on safety-related system components. These activities include, but are not limited to, transportation container qualification testing, crane and lift-gear certification or recertification testing, high efficiency particulate air filter testing and certification, stress tests (such as "burn-in" testing of electrical components and leak testing), and calibration of sensors or diagnostic equipment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to support operations at the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center (SNMREC). The DOE Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) previously provided funding support for the establishment of four National Marine Energy Centers (NMECs) to increase marine energy research and development and bolster testing infrastructure. The SNMREC is one of the four NMECs established under the program.

Tasks would be completed over a 36-month budget period. Proposed project activities would involve planning and facilitating public outreach and education (including science museum exhibits), preparing and providing training for a K-12 curriculum, organizing and hosting an industry advisory board, refurbishing a small coastal research vessel, purchasing and installing an indoor overhead travel lift which would provide turbine prototype and instrumentation assembly and handling capabilities, refurbishing scientific instrumentation, and collaborating with DOE and other NMECs to align activities.

The proposed activities would primarily occur at the FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI; Fort Pierce, FL). Procurement, planning, project management, reporting, and meeting activities could also take place on the FAU Boca Raton campus. Vessel refurbishment would occur at the FAU HBOI small boats marina located on university property. Travel lift installation would occur inside an FAU HBOI warehouse building.

All proposed project work would be performed at existing, purpose-built facilities. No changes to the use, mission, or operation of these facilities, modifications, or ground disturbing activities would be required. No additional permits, licenses, or authorizations would be required. Activities would involve typical hazards associated with research

facilities and the use of fabrication and machining tools and heavy lift equipment. Existing FAU Environmental, Health, and Safety (EH&S) policies and procedures would be followed at all facilities.

DOE has considered potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts on these resources due to the proposed activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO)
NEPA review completed by Melissa Parker, 05/29/24

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: 5/30/2024
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