

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



RECIPIENT: [Bergey Windpower Co. LLC](#)

STATE: OK

PROJECT TITLE: [Business Model for Rural Cooperative Distributed Wind Microgrids](#)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002071	DE-EE0008959	GFO-0008959-002	GO8959

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.)
B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects	Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.
B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects	Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to [Bergey Windpower Co. \(BWC\)](#) to design a business model for rural cooperative distributed wind microgrids which would be achieved through feasibility studies, component testing, and field trials.

DOE previously completed a NEPA Determination (ND) ([GFO-0008959-001](#); A9; 05/06/2020) for Budget Period (BP) 1 activities. BP1 activities consisted of feasibility studies of the Distributed Energy Resources – Sales business model.

This ND applies to BP2 Tasks 9.3 – 14 and BP2 Tasks 16.1 – 16.3. This ND does not apply to BP2 Tasks 9.1 and 9.2 (i.e., field trials) and BP2 15 (i.e., pilot project) activities. DOE will complete the NEPA review for BP2 Tasks 9.1, 9.2, and 15 when sufficient information is available to conduct a meaningful review. Sufficient information includes site selection of the second field trial/wind turbine installation location, pilot project details, and completion of all necessary agency consultations.

BWC headquarters and factory location in Norman, OK would be the site of indoor microgrid research and development (R&D) testing as well as outdoor field testing on an existing and operational 15-kilowatt wind turbine. Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (Norman, OK) would assist BWC in designing a virtual power plant, evaluating installation options and support services, finalizing evaluation and planning tools, and project reporting and outreach. Further R&D on microgrid components would occur in an Intergrid LLC (Temple, NH) electronics laboratory. All facilities are preexisting purpose-built facilities for the type of work to be conducted for this award. Facility modifications, new construction, or ground disturbance would not be required.

Award activities would involve typical hazards associated with electrical work and site-specific environmental hazards. All work would be completed by licensed and trained professionals with proper personal protection equipment and safety precautions. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed to mitigate hazards to acceptable levels. Mitigated hazards would pose negligible risks to the public and environment. All

activities would comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these 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 \(BP\) 2 Tasks 9.3 – 14 and BP2 Tasks 16.1 – 16.3](#)

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

[BP2 Tasks 9.1, 9.2, and 15](#)

Notes:

[Wind Energy Technologies Office \(WETO\)](#)
[NEPA review completed by Corrin MacLuckie, 05/30/2024.](#)

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: [Matthew Blevins](#)
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: [5/30/2024](#)

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required