

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



RECIPIENT: GE Vernova Operations LLC

STATE: NY

PROJECT TITLE : GRID-READY WIND: Reliable and Economical Grid Services Design, Implementation and Demonstration at the Great Pathfinder Wind Power Plant

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002745	DE-EE0010652	GFO-0010652-001	

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.)

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:

B1.7 Electronic equipment

Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to GE Vernova Operations LLC to demonstrate the ability of utility scale wind power plants (WPPs) to provide traditional and emerging grid services through a centralized control framework. The proposed project's team would make recommendations on how the grid services demonstrated using WPPs are applicable to other inverter-based resources like solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage systems.

The proposed project activities include the design, development, and field testing of grid forming inverter technology. Design, development, and indoor testing activities would occur at research and development facilities operated by GE Vernova Operations LLC (Niskayuna, NY; Greenville, SC; Salem, VA; and Lubbock, TX) in addition to subrecipients Apex Clean Energy (Charlottesville, VA and Stratford, IA) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (Carmel, IN).

The only outdoor testing would occur at GE Vernova Operations LLC's wind turbine test site in Lubbock, TX and at Apex Clean Energy's commercial wind farm in Stratford, IA. Modifications to these purpose-built facilities for wind power would be limited to the temporary installation and operation of inverters and associated control software. No ground disturbing activities would be required to accommodate the testing equipment, which would be contained in skid-mounted containers and removed from the existing laydown yards upon conclusion of the proposed project. Any pre-existing equipment at the facilities utilized by the proposed project would remain in place.

Proposed work would involve electrical hazards. Existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed, including employee training, proper protective equipment, and engineering controls. No new or additional permits would be required for the proposed activities. Based on the types of activities proposed and the nature of project locations, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
Review completed by Whitney Donoghue on 10/2/2023

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: 10/6/2023
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