



## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination

### Categorical Exclusion

**Recipient:** EFI Foundation

**State:** Multiple

**Project Title:** Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub Demand-Side Support Initiative – Phase 1 ‘Design Phase’

**Funding Opportunity Announcement Number:** N/A

**Award Number:** N/A

**OCED NEPA Control Number:** OCED-demandside-CX-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:**

#### **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPENDIX, NUMBER, AND 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.

**Rationale for Determination:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) is proposing to provide funding to a consortium – which consists of EFI Foundation, S&P Global, and Intercontinental Exchange – to establish the ‘Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (H2Hub) Demand-Side Support Initiative’. The consortium would design demand-side support mechanisms that would facilitate purchases of clean hydrogen produced by H2Hub-affiliated projects. The team would also develop an operational plan for how to administer these mechanisms.

The consortium would complete work in two phases – Phase 1 ‘Design Phase’ and Phase 2 ‘Execution Phase’. This categorical exclusion applies to Phase 1 only. The scope of Phase 2 has not yet been defined and will be informed by the work completed in Phase 1. DOE will complete additional NEPA review prior to authorizing Phase 2 when sufficient information is available to conduct a meaningful analysis of potential impacts.

Phase 1 activities would be limited to information gathering, analysis, document preparation and information dissemination. DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts to sensitive resources.

**Consultations (Section 106 NHPA, Section 7 ESA, etc.):** None required.

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 1501.9(e)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.1(g)(3)) 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.

DOE has determined that work to be carried out outside of the United States, its territories and possessions is exempt from further review pursuant to Section 5.1.1 of the DOE Final Guidelines for Implementation of Executive Order 12114; "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions."

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**Notes:** This categorical exclusion applies to Phase 1 'Design Phase' only. Additional NEPA review is required prior to DOE entering into an agreement for Phase 2 'Execution Phase'.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

OCED NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Date: