

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



RECIPIENT: Chevron U.S.A. Inc.

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE: Geozone Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) Pilot Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002826	DE-EE0011278	GFO-0011278-001	GO11278

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 provide federal funding to Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (Chevron) to conduct an Enhanced Geothermal System (EGS) pilot demonstration using innovative drilling and simulation techniques to access geothermal energy in Sonoma County, CA.

The proposed project is expected to take place over a five to eight year period. The first Budget Period (BP1) would have a duration of several years, and associated activities would be limited to project planning and permitting, initial site characterization, computer modeling, outreach, community engagement, and reporting. BP2 and BP3 of the proposed project would involve the development and execution of a final well drilling and simulation plan. At this time, there is insufficient information available to conduct a thorough NEPA review of proposed project activities beyond BP1. Additional NEPA review would be required for BP2 and BP3 once project details have been fully defined, including the exact locations for the proposed injection, production, and monitoring wells.

BP1 activities would be conducted within the offices and computer labs of various project participants, including Electricore, Inc. (Valencia, CA), University of Utah Energy Geoscience Institute (Salt Lake City, UT), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley, CA), and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Richland, WA). Initial site characterization activities may be conducted at Chevron's privately owned location in Sonoma County; however, such work would be limited to noninvasive surveys. BP1 would not involve any ground disturbance or equipment mobilization. No change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort.

This NEPA determination applies only to BP1. Based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern. 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 conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Budget Period 1

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

Budget Period 2 and Budget Period 3

Notes:

Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO)
Review completed by Whitney Donoghue on 6/5/2024.

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: Andrew Montano Date: 6/5/2024
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