

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



RECIPIENT: University of New Hampshire

STATE: NH

PROJECT TITLE: DNFA Operations Funding for the National Marine Energy Centers – Atlantic Marine Energy Center

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FOA 2234	DE-EE0009450	GFO-0009450-007	

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to lead a consortium which would include UNH, Stony Brook University (SBU), Lehigh University (LU), and the Coastal Studies Institute (CSI; administered by East Carolina University) to establish the Atlantic Marine Energy Center (AMEC). In addition to establishing AMEC organizational structure, participants, and research capabilities, award activities would include laboratory and field research. As a result of a Determination of Non-Competitive Financial Assistance (DNFA), additional Subtasks (10.6-10.9) have been added to this award.

DOE previously completed six NEPA Determinations (NDs) (GFO-0009450-001, 08/20/2021: A9, A11, B3.6, B5.15; GFO-0009450-002, 03/03/2022: A9, B3.6; GFO-0009450-003, 03/14/2022: A9, B3.6; GFO-0009450-004, 07/22/2022: A9, B3.6, B5.25; GFO-0009450-005, 03/12/2024: A9, B1.31, B3.6, B3.16; GFO-0009450-006 A9, B3.6, B5.15, B5.25, 03/20/2024) which did not apply to Subtasks 14.2 and Task 15. This ND applies only to new Subtasks 10.6-10.9. DOE would complete the NEPA review for Subtasks 14.2 and Task 15 when sufficient information is available to conduct a meaningful review.

Proposed Subtask 10.6-10.9 activities would primarily be intellectual, academic, or analytical in nature, including expanding communications about AMEC through participation in events and dissemination of information through flyers, videos, social media, and the AMEC website, creating partnerships as a facilitator and coordinator for the regional marine energy community through outreach events and activities, and fostering coordination with DOE and the other National Marine Energy Centers by attending all-center meetings and conferences. Subtask 10.8 would also involve facilitating access and availability of AMEC research and test facilities for industry, researchers, and other stakeholders, including the purchase of equipment and maintenance of existing equipment to maintain facility capabilities.

The proposed activities would be performed at existing, purpose-built facilities. No modifications to existing facilities, ground disturbing activities, or changes to the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would be required. No additional permits, licenses, or authorizations would be required. Existing university health and safety standards would

be followed.

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.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

[Subtasks 10.6-10.9](#)

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

[Subtask 14.2](#)

[Subtask 15](#)

Notes:

[Water Power Technologies Office \(WPTO\)](#)  
[NEPA review completed by Melissa Parker, 06/07/24](#)

## 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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_



Signed By: [Andrew Montano](#)

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: [6/7/2024](#)

## 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 :**