

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



RECIPIENT: University of Hawaii

STATE: HI

PROJECT TITLE : Hawai'i Marine Energy Center Operating Funds

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0011119	GFO-0011119-001	GO11119

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 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.

B2.4 Equipment Qualification

Activities undertaken to (1) qualify equipment for use or improve systems reliability or (2) augment information on safety-related system components. These activities include, but are not limited to, transportation container qualification testing, crane and lift-gear certification or recertification testing, high efficiency particulate air filter testing and certification, stress tests (such as "burn-in" testing of electrical components and leak testing), and calibration of sensors or diagnostic equipment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the University of Hawaii (UH) to support operations at the Hawaii Marine Energy Center (HMEC). The DOE Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) previously provided funding support for the establishment of four National Marine Energy Centers (NMECs) to increase marine energy research and development and bolster testing infrastructure. The HMEC is one of the four NMECs established under the program.

Award tasks would be completed over a 36-month budget period. Proposed project activities would include planning, management, outreach, website development, information sharing, equipment upkeep and repair, travel to and hosting of meetings, and development of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Plan. Proposed work would primarily occur at the UH Manoa campus and UH Marine Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Planning activities for establishment of one or more sites near Oahu, HI as marine energy testing locations would also occur. 48 North Solutions in Issaquah, WA would assist with completing the environmental reviews necessary for those activities.

Subtask 3.1 would involve assessment, cataloguing, and maintenance or upgrades of existing UH facility equipment, including a research flume, a wave tank, a power takeoff (PTO) test bench, data acquisition system and instrumentation (NREL MODAQ), a linear actuator, hydraulic cylinders, a water tank, various sensors, three Wave Spotter buoys, a small inspection remote operation vehicle, a 27-foot workboat, an Optical Time Domain Reflectometer, and a 3D printer.

Activities would involve typical hazards associated with research facilities and the use of small hand tools (e.g., drills, electric screwdrivers, light grinders). Existing UH Environmental, Health, and Safety (EH&S) policies and procedures

would be followed.

All proposed project work would be performed at existing, purpose-built facilities. No changes to the use, mission, or operation of these facilities, modifications, or ground disturbing activities would be required. No additional permits, licenses, or authorizations would be required.

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 final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO)
NEPA review completed by Melissa Parker, 06/17/24

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.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Electronically Signed By: Andrew Montano

Date: 6/18/2024

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:

Field Office Manager

Date: