

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



RECIPIENT: EnergyWerx

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE : Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange (i2X), Innovative Queue Management Solutions (iQMS) Demonstration Program: Electric Vehicle Charging

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
N/A	N/A	GFO-EV Charging PIA-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:

A8 Awards of certain contracts	Awards of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services.
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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) entered into a Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with partnership intermediary (PI) EnergyWerx/DefenseWerx in April 2023 for a five-year pilot. Through the PIA, DOE is expanding its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem and address gaps facing companies, organizations, and communities seeking to engage with DOE and/or develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission.

DOE's Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange (i2X) program (spearheaded by the Solar Energy Technologies Office and the Wind Energy Technologies Office) was launched to enable simpler, faster, and fairer interconnection of clean energy resources to distribution and transmission grids. DOE previously completed a NEPA Determination (ND) for activities to establish i2X's Innovative Queue Management Solutions (iQMS) Demonstration Program (12/07/2023; CXs A8, A9, A11) using the PIA.

After partnering with the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (Joint Office), the i2X team has prioritized the need for new approaches to studying generator interconnection requests, electric vehicle charging equipment service requests, and queue management on distribution grids. The i2X team and the Joint Office (collectively the iQMS team) is proposing to utilize the PIA to collaborate with distribution utilities to facilitate the rapid prototyping and demonstration of optimization solutions for electric vehicle service load request and energization queues.

The PI would serve as the facilitator to work with identified utilities to support collaboration on queue management pilot demonstrations, including but not limited to the following activities:

1. Complete market research to identify utilities that would be suitable candidates for the program.
2. Conduct a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit and identify performers.
3. With input from the iQMS team, design a fair and efficient process for soliciting applications and executing selections.
4. Monitor and report on program efforts and progress toward agreed-upon outcomes through biweekly meetings and end of phase reports.

The program would have two phases: Phase 1 - Get Ready, which would involve up to 10 utilities, and Phase 2 - Demo, which would involve up to four of the best performing utilities from Phase 1. The proposed activities would be limited to software development, computer modeling, and prototyping of new queue management systems for proposed service load requests of electric vehicle charging resources, in partnership with distribution utilities.

Award activities would consist exclusively of intellectual, academic, and analytical activities, such as information gathering, data analysis, document preparation, information dissemination, and technical advice/assistance. Based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate any adverse impacts to sensitive resources as a result of the utilization of the PIA as described above.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Joint Office of Energy and Transportation
NEPA review completed by Melissa Parker, 06/20/24

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: _____



Andrew Montano

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/21/2024

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 :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____