

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



RECIPIENT: Triton Systems, Inc.

STATE: MA

PROJECT TITLE : Innovative Anchoring System for Floating Offshore Wind

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010321	GFO-0010321-002	GO10321

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.)

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Triton Systems, Inc. (Triton) to design and fabricate an approximately 150-ton capacity offshore wind anchor system and installation tool for offshore wind facilities development. The award aims to develop an anchoring system that would reduce environmental impacts as well as fabrication and installation costs.

DOE previously completed one NEPA Determination (ND) (GFO-0010321-001; A9; 08/01/2023) for Tasks 1 – 4. These tasks included activities of an analytical, intellectual, and academic nature which would help inform the remaining award activities.

This ND applies to Tasks 6 – 10 and does NOT apply to Task 5 or Tasks 11 – 14. DOE would complete an additional NEPA review for Task 5 and Tasks 11 - 14 when sufficient information is available to conduct a meaningful review. Sufficient information includes receiving the necessary approvals from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for in-water testing activities.

Triton proposes to utilize their research and development (R&D) facilities in Chelmsford, MA to design and fabricate the offshore wind anchoring system. All facilities proposed for Tasks 6 – 10 activities would be conducted within preexisting purpose-built facilities. No facility modifications, outdoor work, or ground disturbance would be necessary. If it is determined that facility modifications, outdoor work, and/or ground disturbance would be required for Tasks 6 – 10, then the completion of an additional NEPA review would need to occur before the associated work can start. Additionally, prior to beginning Task 5 and Tasks 11 – 14, an additional NEPA review would also be required.

Award activities would involve typical hazards associated with laboratory R&D operations, including handling and use of hazardous materials, operation of potentially hazardous equipment, and site-specific environmental hazards. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed to mitigate hazards to acceptable levels. Mitigated hazards would pose negligible risks to the public and environment. All activities would comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate

impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

[Tasks 6 – 10](#)

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

[Task 5 and Tasks 11 – 14](#)

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

If it is determined that facility modifications, outdoor work, and/or ground disturbance would be required for Tasks 6 – 10, then the completion of an additional NEPA review would need to occur before the associated work can start. Additionally, prior to beginning Task 5 and Tasks 11 – 14, an additional NEPA review would also be required.

Notes:

[Wind Energy Technologies Office \(WETO\)](#)

[This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.](#)

[NEPA review completed by Corrin MacLuckie, 06/26/2024.](#)

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:



[Andrew Montano](#)

Date: [6/26/2024](#)

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: _____