

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



RECIPIENT: Electric Hydrogen

STATE: MA

PROJECT TITLE : Manufacturing Innovations for Scaling Green H2 to Fossil-parity

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002922	DE-EE0011309	GFO-0011309-001	GO11309

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 federal funding to Electric Hydrogen (EH2) to design, develop, fabricate, and pilot test a fully automated electrolyzer manufacturing process. Additionally, EH2 would work with higher educational institutions to develop workforce training programs.

Award activities would be executed over three budget periods (BP). BP1 activities include design, development, integration of the new manufacturing technique, testing, and optimization of processes. BP2 activities would include integration of subcomponent processes. BP3 activities would include optimization of manufacturing processes, testing, and demonstration. Award activities would occur entirely within purpose-built manufacturing facilities. No new modifications to the facility would be required. No change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort.

Design, manufacturing, fundamental research and development activities, and some testing would take place at EH2's Massachusetts facilities (Devens and Natick, MA). Additional testing would take place in EH2's pilot plant (Jose CA). Characterization activities would occur at subrecipient facilities, including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL, Golden, CO), and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL, Oak Ridge, TN). Additionally, EH2 would contract with Mount Wachusett Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, and University of Massachusetts Lowell to design educational workforce development and training programs.

Air emissions may occur from routine operation of the facilities and would be mitigated via operation under existing facility-wide permits. Award activities would involve hazards typical of manufacturing facilities such as loud work environments, operation of machinery, and working with hazardous materials including gases, metals, and industrial solvents. Hazardous materials and hazardous waste would be handled, managed, stored, and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental regulation. Hazards would be mitigated via existing corporate, government, and university health and safety policies and procedures, including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments. EH2 and their subcontractors would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local permits, requirements, and regulations.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of the proposed activities to determine potential impacts on sensitive resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature, and found no effects that would be expected to result from the proposed project activities.

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 final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO)
NEPA review completed by Amy Lukens, 6/26/2024.

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.

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: Melissa Parker

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/27/2024

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: _____