

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



RECIPIENT: University of Hawaii

STATE: HI

PROJECT TITLE : HAWAII WAVE SURGE ENERGY CONVERTER (HAWSEC)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001837	DE-EE0008629	GFO-0008629-004	GO8629

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 the University of Hawaii (UH; Honolulu, HI) to design, fabricate, and test a novel wave energy converter (WEC) and hydraulic power takeoff system (PTO).

Proposed award activities would occur over two budget periods (BPs). DOE previously completed three NEPA determinations (NDs) for BP1 (GFO-0008629-001, CX A9, 8/19/2019; GFO-0008629-002, CX A9, B3.6, 11/04/2020; and GFO-0008629-003, CX A9, B3.6, 8/3/2021). This ND applies to BP2.

BP2 activities would include additional numerical modeling and design for the medium-scale version of the WEC PTO, procurement of PTO components, fabrication of the PTO, laboratory/bench testing of the PTO, and final model validation and reporting. Project management, oversight, and reporting activities, modeling and design work, and some preliminary testing would occur at UH Manoa campus facilities. Bench testing of the hydraulic PTO, including simulation of wave action and collection of data to validate numerical models, would take place at the UH Marine Center.

The proposed project would involve potential hazards associated with device fabrication and bench testing activities, such as working with pressurized water and rotating mechanical parts and risk of electric shock in the presence of water. Mitigation of these hazards would include following existing UH Environmental Health and Safety Office policies and procedures and using a safety enclosure while executing tests. UH would observe all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations at all 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. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed award activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO)
NEPA review completed by Melissa Parker, 07/01/24

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:  _____ Date: 7/2/2024
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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager