U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Queens Carbon, Inc. -- Cement Decarbonization via Engineered SCM Production

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Pine Brook, New Jersey; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support the project team's small-scale research and development to scale an innovative, energy-efficient technology that produces carbon-neutral supplemental cementitious materials (SCM) from industry standard raw materials, enabling an unlimited SCM supply. Specifically, the project team will (1) produce, test and validate an initial test batch of SCM at a mini-pilot facility, (2) produce, test, and validate multiple batches to identify best performing SCM composition; (3) design, permit, and construct pilot scale facility for SCM production, and (4) produce, test, and validate performance of the pilot facility. If successful, this project would result in the production of cementitious materials that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance energy efficiency.

Project activities will be conducted at an existing facilities at Queens Carbon, Inc. (Pine Brook, NJ) and Buzzi Unicem USA (Bethlehem, PA). Project tasks fit within the class of actions identified under the DOE Categorical Exclusions identified below. This assessment was based on a review of the proposed scope of work and the potential environmental impact of the project. The project team has certified that project tasks will be conducted in accordance with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements. No modifications will be made to the existing facilities to accommodate the proposed work. Queens Carbon has not identified all nor obtained all necessary permits and approvals applicable to their proposed actions and is prohibited from commencing project work until those permits are obtained. Per the terms of the award, a permits certification and, if necessary, an amended NEPA Determination, are required prior to the conduct of applicable project work.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

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

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☑ The proposal 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☑ The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: GEOFFREY GOODE Digitally signed by GEOFFREY GOODE Date: 2024.08.14 14:38:36 -04'00' Date Determined:

(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)