U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: AeroShield Materials, Inc. -- High-Clarity Monolithic Silica Aerogel Sheets for Energy-Efficient Insulated Glass Units and Glazings

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Waltham and Marion, Massachusetts; Zeeland, Michigan; Berkeley, California

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support the project team's research and development of a novel double-pane insulated glass unit (IGU) that utilizes ultra-clear silica aerogel, a light-weight nanoporous material known for its super-insulating properties. Specifically, the project team will (1) select a location to construct a production facility, (2) finalize facility design and construct production facility, (3) test final facility for full-scale production, and (4) produce, test, and validate final aerogel IGUs to ensure products meet project goals. If successful, this project will enable the production of energy efficient doors and windows for residential and commercial buildings, thereby reducing fossil fuel combustion for heating and cooling structures, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Project activities will be conducted at existing facilities at AeroShield Materials, Inc. (Waltham, MA), Thompson Consultants, Inc. (Marion, MA), ODL (Zeeland, MI) and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley, CA). 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. AeroShield Materials, Inc. has not identified all necessary permits and approvals applicable to its proposed actions, nor has it identified a location to construct its production facility. AeroShield is prohibited from commencing related project work until the facility site has been identified and all required permits are obtained prior to Milestone 2.6. Per the terms of the award, a permits certification and, if necessary, an amended NEPA Determination, are required prior to conducting applicable project work.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

B5.1 - Actions to conserve energy or water

B3.15 - Small-scale indoor research and development projects using nanoscale materials

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: 2024.08.20 14:24:32 -04'00' Date Determined:

(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)