

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



RECIPIENT: ConnectWerx

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE : Offshore Wind Workforce Readiness

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
PIA	DE-EE0010491	GFO-OSWWFRPIA-001	

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:

A8 Awards of certain contracts	Awards of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services.
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.)
A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations	Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) entered into a Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with Partnership Intermediary (PI) ConnectWerx to establish the Offshore Wind (OSW) Workforce Readiness (WFR) program. The OSW WFR program would be funded through the DOE's Office of Technology Transitions, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and its Wind Energy Technologies Office.

The OSW WFR program would address the immediate and anticipated workforce needs of the domestic OSW industry and broaden paths to high quality OSW jobs through the start of a training program. Additionally, it would support education and training programs that offer apprenticeship readiness programs, registered apprenticeship programs, and maritime/mariner programs with particular attention to programs that support underserved communities.

Activities performed by the PI would include facilitating potential performer research to identify OSW training entities, managing training agreements, facilitating industry collaboration through information exchanges and events, and establishing and managing an innovation hub. Training providers selected for funding would utilize preexisting and purpose-built facilities as well as existing training infrastructure. Therefore, no facility modifications, new construction, or ground disturbance would result from PIA activities. However, PIA activities may involve at-sea and in-water field training. This NEPA Determination (ND) does not cover at-sea or in-water field training activities as training providers, programs, and locations had not been selected at the time of completing this ND. Such activities would require an additional DOE NEPA review before at-sea and/or in-water field training can begin.

Award activities would involve typical hazards associated with training activities, including handling and use of hazardous materials, operation of potentially hazardous equipment and vehicles, and site-specific environmental hazards. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures, including the use of personal protective equipment, 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.

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 conditional NEPA determination.

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

This NEPA Determination (ND) only applies to facilitating potential performer research to identify OSW training entities, managing training agreements, facilitating industry collaboration through information exchanges and events, and establishing and managing an innovation hub.

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

This NEPA Determination (ND) does not apply to any at-sea or in-water field training activities.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

This NEPA Determination (ND; GFO-OSWWFRPIA-001) does not cover at-sea or in-water field training activities as training providers, programs, and locations had not been selected at the time of completing this ND. Once these elements are identified, associated activities must be submitted to DOE for an additional NEPA review before at-sea and/or in-water training can begin.

Notes:

Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO)

This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Corrin MacLuckie, 09/05/2024

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: _____



Electronically Signed By: **Andrew Montano**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/6/2024

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: _____