

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



RECIPIENT: Wind Energy Technologies Office - Department of Energy

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE: Offshore Wind National and Regional Research and Development

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| DE-FOA-0003334 | | GFO-FOA-0003334-001 | |

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:

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) Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) is proposing to issue the Offshore Wind National and Regional Research and Development Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA; DE-FOA-0003334). Through this FOA, DOE would provide federal funding to support DOE's priorities in advancing clean energy applications and energy savings; the U.S. Department of the Interior's priorities of accelerating responsible development of renewable energy; and the national goals to deploy 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind by 2030 and 15 GW of floating offshore wind by 2035 while advancing environmental justice, protecting biodiversity, supporting the creation of good-paying jobs, and promoting ocean co-use. The FOA includes six Topic Areas.

Topic Area 1, Subtopic 1a – Refinement and Innovation in Floating Platform Design, Manufacturing, and Deployment
 Topic Area 1, Subtopic 1b – Next-Generation Integrated Floating Turbine/Platform Technologies
 Topic Area 2 – Innovation for Fixed-Bottom Offshore Wind Foundation Types and Supporting Infrastructure
 Topic Area 3 – Technology Advancement to Inform Risk to Birds and Bats from Offshore Wind Energy
 Topic Area 4 – Development of a Manufacturing and Supply Chain Offshore Wind Consortium Based in the Great Lakes Region
 Topic Area 5 – Floating Offshore Wind Center of Excellence
 Topic Area 6 – Protecting Future Offshore Wind Farms Against Lightning

DOE has reviewed the descriptions of each Topic Area and concluded that this NEPA Determination (ND) will only apply to awards selected under Topic Areas 4 and 5. This ND does not apply to Topic Areas 1 (Subtopics 1a and 1b), 2, 3, and 6. All awards selected under Topic Areas 1 (Subtopics 1a and 1b), 2, 3, and 6 will require separate DOE NEPA reviews.

Successful applicants of Topic Area 4 would form an entity responsible for aggregating non-Tier 1 manufacturers in the Great Lake region. The meeting of these manufacturers would be to gather and align industry, government, communities, academia, and other interested parties to examine existing manufacturing capabilities and create economic growth related to the domestic offshore wind energy supply chain in the Great Lakes region. Successful applicants of Topic Area 5 would form a university-based offshore wind center for excellence that would assemble expertise and partnerships to provide industry and community insight to solve domestic floating offshore wind development and deployment challenges. The types of activities that would be conducted under Topic Areas 4 and 5 of the FOA are limited to information gathering, analysis, and dissemination and would include technical advice and assistance to organizations. All awards funded under Topic Areas 4 and 5 of the FOA are categorically excluded from further NEPA review as long as the scope of the selected awards remain consistent with the intent of Topic Areas 4 and 5, as issued.

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:

[Topic Areas 4 and 5 of DE-FOA-0003334](#)

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

[Topic Areas 1 \(Subtopics 1a and 1b\), 2, 3, and 6 of DE-FOA-0003334](#)

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

This NEPA Determination applies to awards selected under Topic Areas 4 and 5 of Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) DE-FOA-0003334, provided the scope of the selected awards remain consistent with the intent of Topic Areas 4 and 5, as issued. If selected applicants propose to use award funds for activities outside the scope of this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review will be required.

Notes:

[Wind Energy Technologies Office \(WETO\)](#)

[This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.](#)

[NEPA review completed by Corrin MacLuckie, 09/27/2024.](#)

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: [Matthew Blevins](#)

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/30/2024

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: _____