

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



RECIPIENT: BIL 40503 Energy Auditor Training (EAT) Program

STATE: DC

PROJECT TITLE : BIL 40503 Energy Auditor Training (EAT) Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0003204	DE-FOA-0003204	GFO-BIL 40503 EAT-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.

B2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation

Installation of, or improvements to, building and equipment instrumentation (including, but not limited to, remote control panels, remote monitoring capability, alarm and surveillance systems, control systems to provide automatic shutdown, fire detection and protection systems, water consumption monitors and flow control systems, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing funding under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) 40503: Energy Auditor Training (EAT) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number: DE-FOA-0003204. The EAT program would provide grant funding to states and territories for the purpose of training individuals to conduct energy audits, or surveys, of commercial and residential buildings.

Allowable activities under the Energy Auditor Training FOA are limited to:

1. Administrative, organizational, planning and outreach efforts for the EAT program
2. Provide classroom training for certifications in:
 - a. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Building Energy Assessment
 - b. The Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) Certified Energy Auditor
 - c. The Building Performance Institute (BPI) Home Energy Professional Energy Auditor
 - d. The Residential Energy Services Network Home Energy Rater
 - e. Any other third-party certification recognized by the Department of Energy
 - f. Any third-party certification that the Secretary determines is equivalent to the certifications described above.
3. Participant outreach and engagement efforts including:
 - a. Determining how funds will be used for various audiences
 - b. Identification of methods and organizations to target selected audiences
4. Partnership collaboration, business services and employer engagement, labor organization planning efforts.
5. Training implementation, limited to the following activities on homes and commercial buildings:
 - a. Energy assessments and audits
 - b. Testing hearing systems for efficiency, co levels, and proper draft
 - c. Determining age and condition of units, age, condition, and draft levels of water heating systems, and inspecting the distribution system
 - d. Measuring combustion appliance zone (CAZ) pressures and record measurements, performing worst case draft

- tests, and inspecting entire dwellings for the presence of gas leaks, noting locations as needed
- e. Testing gas ranges for CO levels, perform health and safety inspections and safety operations, and inspect electrical systems for proper service and condition of wiring in attic.
 - f. Running National Energy Audit Tool (NEAT) audits when appropriate or required.
 - g. Inspecting all attic areas for access and existing insulation levels.
 - h. Performing the initial blower door tests, taking pictures of DG 700 and doors to record the cfm/50 measurement.
 - i. Inspecting walls for insulation, note condition of siding and sealing, inspect basement for box sill and/or crawlspace insulation and sealing, inspect and measure existing exhaust fans or the need for them, and verify proper ventilation.
 - j. Inspecting windows and doors to note condition and measure the need for replacement and inspect appliances for condition of age and record serial and model numbers.
 - k. Performing monitoring/interaction with sub-contractors and in-house crews during residential or commercial jobs.

Activities not listed above, including construction, building modifications, or ground disturbing activities, and tree removal, or tree trimming, are not included under this FOA-wide categorical exclusion and are subject to additional NEPA review and approval by DOE. For activities/projects, requiring additional NEPA review, states must complete the environmental questionnaire (EQ-1): <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA.aspx> and receive notification from DOE that the NEPA review has been completed and approved by the Contracting Officer prior to initiating the project or activities.

Recipients are required to review the DOE PowerPoint trainings on NEPA and Historic Preservation prior to commencing work on the above activities. The training is available at www.energy.gov/node/4816816. Recipients are responsible for contacting DOE NEPA with any NEPA or historic preservation questions at GONEPA@ee.doe.gov.

Most activities listed under "Allowable Activities" are more restrictive than the Categorical Exclusion. The restrictions must be followed for the Allowable Activities to be applicable.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs – Partnerships (Workforce Training Program)
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 10/09/2024

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.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  _____
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 10/11/2024

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: _____