



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) - The Connected Traveler: A Framework to Reduce Energy Use in Transportation

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Golden, CO; Davis, CA; Seattle, WA; College Station, TX; Lawrence, KS; and Tucson, AZ

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support development and testing of a network architecture that approaches sustainable transportation as a dynamic system of travelers and decision points, rather than one of vehicles and roads, in order to create personalized energy-saving opportunities. The network architecture will develop "learning algorithms" to understand a traveler's preferences and will make tailored recommendations to incentivize travelers to pursue energy-efficient routes. If successful, development of a novel network architecture that dynamically simulates urban transportation networks would demonstrate the level of energy efficiency gains that can be accomplished through network optimization approaches.

Research and development activities will be conducted in NREL's laboratory facility located in Golden, CO and Metropia's laboratory facility located in Tucson, AZ. The University of California, Davis; the University of Washington; Texas A&M University; and Kansas University will participate in the proposed project in roles that are limited to theoretical and computer simulation work performed in their office facilities located in Davis, CA; Seattle, WA; College Station, TX; and Lawrence, KS. Any behavioral research/testing of a proof of concept system model and architecture performed by NREL and Metropia will be subject first to the review and approval of the Central DOE Institutional Review Board (IRB), and will comply with the requirements of: (1) DOE Order No. 443.1B (Protection of Human Research Subjects); (2) 10 C.F.R. Part 745; and (3) 45 C.F.R. Part 46.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

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:

Date Determined: 12/9/2015