PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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

RECIPIENT: PARC, A Xerox Company **STATE:** CA

PROJECT TITLE: Sorbents Tailored for Emission Abatement in Manufacturing (STEAM)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002252	DE-EE0009420	GFO-0009420-001	GO9420

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.)
B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects	Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) to develop a novel polymer aerogel sorbent material capable of carbon dioxide capture in oil refinery applications. Sample polymer sorbents would be synthesized, characterized, and utilized for in-laboratory carbon capture testing. The project would be completed over two Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP. This NEPA Determination is applicable to both BPs.

Proposed project activities would include sorbent synthesis, material characterization, carbon dioxide (CO2) adsorption testing (i.e., carbon capture testing), computer modeling, technoeconomic analysis, and conceptual design work. Sorbent samples would be synthesized at laboratory scales, with approximately 4 kg of sorbents produced over the life of the project. Carbon capture testing would be performed both at PARC and at Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory (LBNL). Testing would be performed at laboratory scale (up to 100 g of sorbent material). Conceptual design work would focus on the development of proposed designs for commercial carbon capture systems. No system fabrication would occur as part of the project.

All project activities would be coordinated by PARC. PARC would perform sorbent synthesis, material characterization, and carbon capture testing at laboratory facilities at its laboratory facility in Palo Alto, CA. LBNL would perform carbon capture testing at its laboratory facilities in Livermore, CA. Process Engineering Associates would perform computer modeling and a technoeconomic analysis at its office facilities in Oak Ridge, TN. No physical modifications to existing facilities, ground disturbance, or changes to the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would be required. No additional permits or authorizations would be required.

Project work would involve the use and handling of potentially hazardous chemicals, solvents, and compressed/toxic gases. All such handling would occur in controlled laboratory facilities that routinely perform experimental chemistry with these materials as part of their regular course of business. Potential hazards would be mitigated through adherence to established institutional health and safety policies and procedures. Protocols would include personnel training, the use of personal protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments. Potentially hazardous materials and gases would be handled under a fume hood or glove box, as applicable. Chemicals would be stored appropriately in designated containment areas. All waste materials would be disposed of by a qualified waste management service provider. PARC and its project partners would observe all applicable Federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

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 final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Advanced Manufacturing Office
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.
NEPA review completed by Jonathan Hartman, 04/20/2021

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: Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland Date: 4/26/2021

NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- [x] 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: _____ Date: _____

Field Office Manager