

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:TBD Alaskan Tribes

STATE: AL

PROJECT TITLE Remote Alaskan Communities Notice of Technical Assistance
 :

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number **Procurement Instrument Number** **NEPA Control Number** **CID Number**
 DE-FOA-0001479 GFO-NOTA-AKT-001

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), 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 Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to develop the "Remote Alaskan Communities Energy Efficiency Competition" (hereafter referred to as the RACEE Competition). The RACEE Competition is intended to accelerate efforts by remote Alaskan communities and native Alaskan villages to adopt sustainable energy strategies. The RACEE Competition would empower Alaskan communities and native Alaskan villages to develop effective tools to advance the use of reliable, affordable, and energy efficient solutions that can be replicated throughout Alaska and potentially, in other Arctic regions. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and the Office of Indian Energy (IE) are collaborating to fund and to develop the RACEE Competition and engage partners and stakeholders.

DOE is proposing to publish a two-phase Notice of Technical Assistance (NOTA). The purpose of Phase 1 would be to perform outreach and public education, collect pledges, and select qualified communities and native Alaskan villages for designation as Community Efficiency Champions. Together these Communities would comprise a peer network. DOE could leverage the existing convening power of the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) and other regional energy efficiency organizations to perform outreach to these communities. Phase 2 would allow designated communities to apply for technical assistance to help them identify and develop PLANS for EE Projects in their communities. DOE would not direct applicants to actually do these projects and no funding will be used for any work outside of data collection and project planning. Up to 20 awards of technical assistance will be competitively awarded.

Technical Assistance to gather baseline energy data and develop plans to implement energy efficiency improvements. The plans would be comprehensive and enable the communities to apply for appropriate loan and grant programs. Technical Assistance deliverables for each plan would include: project scope, energy baseline, cost estimate, project business plan, management team that addresses any organizational issues between tribes in a community or between a village and a tribe living within, design team, financing plan, and permitting strategy.

Activities resulting from this NOTA would include: administrative activities, information gathering, analysis, and technical assistance. DOE has determined that the proposed NOTA would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. The proposed NOTA is consistent with actions defined in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination and A11 "Technical advice and assistance to organizations" and is therefore categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

This NEPA Determination is not applicable to environmental monitoring activities or financial assistance in support of completing any particular project. If environmental monitoring activities including, but not limited to, geological, geophysical, geochemical, and engineering surveys, installation and operation of field instruments, drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater, installation and operation of meteorological towers, sampling of flora or fauna, and archaeological, historic, and cultural resource identification are proposed, additional NEPA review will be required prior to DOE providing financial or technical assistance. If, in the future, DOE proposes to provide federal funding in support of any energy efficiency or renewable energy project, additional NEPA review will be required.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

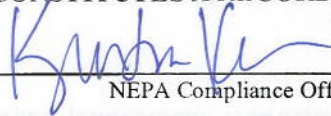
Note to Specialist :

Office of Strategic Programs
Kristin Kerwin 12/17/2015

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

12/17/2015

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

☐ Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- ☐ Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- ☐ Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____