

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Electricore, Inc.

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE Innovative Advanced Hydrogen Mobile Fueler

:

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001224	DE-EE0007275	GFO-0007275-001	

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.)
- 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.
- B5.22 Alternative fuel vehicle fueling stations** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of alternative fuel vehicle fueling stations (such as for compressed natural gas, hydrogen, ethanol and other commercially available biofuels) on the site of a current or former fueling station, or within a previously disturbed or developed area within the boundaries of a facility managed by the owners of a vehicle fleet. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

## Rationale for determination:

Electricore, Inc. would utilize DOE and cost share funding to design, develop, deploy, and analyze the economic viability of an advanced hydrogen mobile fueler (AHMF) to support a hydrogen station during regularly scheduled or unscheduled maintenance. Design, development, and fabrication activities would occur at Hydrogen Technology & Energy Corporation's (HTEC) facility in Vancouver, Canada. The mobile fueler would then be tested and demonstrated by Air Liquide at a minimum of three sites within the northeastern region of the U.S. or within California. The sites are anticipated to be operated by Air Liquide at existing hydrogen stations, or hydrogen stations currently being built. Testing would take place for a minimum of 18 months.

Design, development, and fabrication of the AHMF would occur at HTEC's industrial engineering facility built for assembly, testing, and maintenance activities. Both HTEC and Air Liquide regularly handle, store and dispose of hydrogen fuel. In order to mitigate any hazards, the team would follow all Federal, State, and local regulations, in addition to internal company safety requirements and guidelines. The team would also follow a previously defined Quality Management System for this project, which includes Risk Assessments and HAZOP reviews, Management of Change, Procurement controls, Operations and Maintenance Procedures, and Auditing for compliance based on years of experience and the ISO 9001 standard.

During Budget Period 3 (Demonstration and Validation), compressed hydrogen would be dispensed. The team would follow company quality procedures and dispensing would adhere to fueling safety protocols. Demonstration sites have not yet been determined but are expected to be sited at existing hydrogen stations, or stations currently being built in the northeast U.S. or California, so project activities would be conducted at facilities and stations already permitted to handle hydrogen. The mobile refueler would support existing stations, so could be on site for a fixed amount of time

before relocating to another location or could be moved where and when needed, such as when a station needs maintenance. Proposed sites would be submitted to the DOE Project Officer for review and approval. Any modifications to the host site would be to ensure proper safety of the mobile refueler as well as surrounding structures. Modifications at each existing site are expected to be minor and could include activities related to: HVAC, fire safety, survey work, engineering work (structural, electrical, mechanical, plumbing), and signage. Only minor ground disturbance (if any) would be needed. Any required permits for modifications would be obtained, and third party certification would be sought as appropriate.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined that the proposed project activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects," and B5.22 "Alternative fuel vehicle fueling stations," and are categorically excluded from further NEPA review. Additionally, the proposed activities at HTEC's facility located in Vancouver, Canada are exempt from further review under Executive Order 12114 "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions", per Section 5.1.1 (Actions not having a significant effect on the environment outside the US) of the DOE EO 12114 Implementing Guidelines.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

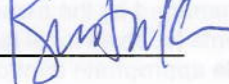
Insert the following language in the award:

If the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA Determination does NOT require a tailored NEPA provision.  
Fuel Cell Technologies Office  
Casey Strickland 03/04/16

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin  Date: 3/4/2016  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager