

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

## OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

### NEPA DETERMINATION

**RECIPIENT:** Newport Partners, LLC.**STATE:** MD**PROJECT TITLE**  
: Development of the Industry's First Smart Range Hood

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> FOA-0001395	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> DE-EE0007569	<b>NEPA Control Number</b> GFO-0007569-001	<b>CID Number</b> G07569
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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:**

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|---|--|
| <b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>                                | 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.)   |
| <b>B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects</b> | 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 federal funding to Newport Partners, LLC. to develop, test, and demonstrate a Smart Range Hood that is affordable, responsive to key pollutants, consumer-friendly, quiet, effective, and efficient.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include prototype development, in-lab testing, and field testing of residential smart kitchen exhaust range hoods for actual performance in test homes. Reporting and management activities would take place at Newport's offices in Davidsonville, MD and Loveland, CO. All prototyping and in-lab testing would be conducted at Broan-NuTone LLC manufacturing facilities in either Hartford, WI, Drummondville, QC in Canada, or Tecate, Baja California in Mexico. The facilities in which lab work would occur are purpose-built for the type of activities being proposed; therefore, no adverse impacts to sensitive resources are expected as a result of the proposed project. No change in the use, mission or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort. The facilities have all applicable permits in place, and would not need additional permits for the proposed activities.

Prototype testing would involve boiling of water, minimal use of tracer gas (e.g., CO<sub>2</sub>), and cooking of food. The specific locations for field testing of the smart range hood prototypes have not yet been identified. However, all chosen locations would be pre-existing, occupied residential buildings and the study would be observational and would not require any construction or ground disturbing activities. Cooking events such as those utilized in this field testing generate known air pollutants such as PM<sub>2.5</sub>. These pollutants are typical and would be exhausted from the cooking area by the prototype, which would be specifically designed to improve indoor air quality and pollutant control during cooking events. The proposed work would not involve any changes in the structure or finishes of selected sites. Therefore, DOE has determined that the proposed activities do not have the potential to cause effects and subsequently DOE has no further obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act.

All waste generated would be non-hazardous and would be limited to miscellaneous metal (e.g., sheet metal) and food products used to simulate cooking events. This waste would be disposed of through normal municipal waste streams.



Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination" and B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects" and is therefore categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**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 :

Building Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord on 05/31/2016

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Electronically  
Signed By: Kristin Kerwin  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/2/2016

**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: