

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:**University of Washington**STATE:** WA

PROJECT TITLE : An Intelligent Adaptable Monitoring Package for Marine Renewable Energy Projects

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000971	DE-EE0006788	GFO-0006788-002	GO6788

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.

Rationale for determination:

DOE is proposing to authorize the expenditure of federal funding by the University of Washington (UW) to develop and field test an integrated instrumentation package to be used for environmental monitoring at marine and hydrokinetic energy sites. The integrated package is an enhanced version of the Adaptable Monitoring Package (iAMP) being developed by researchers at the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center.

This project has three Budget Periods. A NEPA review was previously conducted for BP1 activities (GFO-0006788-001; September 5, 2014) during which UW designed and tested the iAMP system. The iAMP system is an integrated marine environmental monitoring device that incorporates sonar and video cameras. This NEPA review is being conducted for BP2 activities only. There is a Go/No-Go decision point between BP2 and BP3 activities; the specifics for activities proposed for BP3 are not known.

BP2 activities would consist of three subtasks.

Under subtask 2.1 UW would make design and mechanical modifications to the iAMP system based on results obtained during BP1, including reconfiguring the sonar into an upward facing position and modifying battery configuration. Under subtask 2.2 UW would test the iAMP system dockside at the University of Washington dock. Under subtask 2.3 UW would test the iAMP system at the Pacific Marine Energy Center South Energy Test Site (PMEC-SETS).

Design and mechanical modifications under subtask 2.1 would be made to the iAMP system at the UW Harris Hydraulics Laboratory, in Seattle, Washington. This building is designed for this type of work; no modifications would be made to the building for this project. The project would not produce any hazardous or toxic chemicals.

Subtasks 2.2 and 2.3 would involve the deployment of the iAMP in a marine environment. Impacts to the marine environment, if any, would be dependent upon the final design of the iAMP system. As such, because the final design is not completed, there is not enough information to conduct a meaningful NEPA analysis of these two subtasks at this time. UW will need to prepare and submit a Biological Evaluation analyzing the potential impacts of the deployment phase when that impact can be meaningfully evaluated.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined subtask 2.1 of the proposal fits within the class of action(s)

and the integral elements of 10 CFR 1021 subpart B outlined in the DOE categorical exclusion(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. Subtask 2.1 of this proposal is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Subtask 2.2 - Dock Testing

Subtask 2.3 - Field Test

Task 3.0 - Post-Installation Field Test

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Subtask 2.1 - Autonomous System Development

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Water Power Program

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision

NEPA review completed by Roak Parker on July 7, 2016

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/12/2016

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: