

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:**Hydro Research Foundation**STATE:** CO

**PROJECT TITLE :** Hydro Research Foundation University Research Awards

|                                                |                                      |                            |                   |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> | <b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> | <b>NEPA Control Number</b> | <b>CID Number</b> |
| DE-FOA-0000832                                 | DE-EE0006506                         | GFO-0006506-300            | GO6506            |

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.)

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to execute a University Research Awards Program (RAP). This RAP would provide 6-10 competitively awarded hydro-power related graduate-level research awards for one-year periods of study. At this time, no students have been selected and sites and activities are unknown.

This NEPA determination applies to the administration of the fellowship program, including surveys of other research programs, analysis of financial support for potential fellows, and other information gathering, analysis, and dissemination activities only. This NEPA determination does not apply to the issuance of any graduate-level fellowship grants and each selected project is subject to additional NEPA review.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the proposal fits within the class of action(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. 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:

The issuance of any graduate-level fellowship grants. Each selected grant project is subject to additional NEPA review. This restriction does not preclude you from:

The administration of the fellowship program, including surveys of other research programs, analysis of financial support for potential fellows, and other information gathering, analysis, and dissemination activities.

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 :

Wind and Water Power Technologies Office  
This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.  
Review completed by Rebecca McCord on 8/19/2016

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Electronically  
Signed By: Lori Gray

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/19/2016

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_