

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Shell Energy North America (U.S.), L.P.**STATE:** WA**PROJECT TITLE** : Hydro Battery Pearl Hill

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number
 DE-FOA-0001455

Procurement Instrument Number
 DE-EE0008013

NEPA Control Number **CID Number**
 GFO-0008013-001

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.)
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Shell Energy North America, L.P. (SENA) to develop and demonstrate a floating reservoir technology option as a reliable, safe and low-cost way to reconfigure naturally abundant open-loop sites into closed-loop opportunities for pumped storage of hydropower. The proposed project would be divided into two Budget Periods (BP), with a down-select between the two budget periods. This NEPA review is for BP1 only.

BP1 would involve front-end development, preliminary design, permitting and licensing, engineering and feasibility work to be completed at SENA's office space in Spokane, WA; Pacific Northwest National Lab in Richland, WA; and Huxley College of the Environment in Bellingham, WA. BP1 activities would be limited to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would require no physical materials beyond standard office supplies and computer equipment.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a DOE laboratory may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant DOE NEPA Compliance Officer for the specific DOE laboratory prior to initiating such work. Further, any work conducted at a DOE laboratory must meet the laboratory's health and safety requirements.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the activities associated with Budget Period 1 fit 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. All activities associated with BP1 of this proposal are 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:

Budget Period 2 activities

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Budget Period 1 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 :

Water Power Technologies Office

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Rebecca McCord, April 5, 2017

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

Electronically
Signed By: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/6/2017

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: _____