PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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

RECIPIENT: United Technologies Research Center **STATE:** CT

PROJECT TITLE : Thin-Film, Metal-Supported High-Performance and Durable Proton-Solid Oxide Electrolyzer Cell

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001647	DE-EE0008080	GFO-0008080-001	

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.
B3.15 Small-scale indoor research and development projects using nanoscale materials	Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor small-scale research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects using nanoscale materials in accordance with applicable requirements (such as engineering, worker safety, procedural, and administrative regulations) necessary to ensure the containment of any hazardous materials. Construction and modification activities would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to United Technologies Research Center (UTRC) for the demonstration of a proton-conducting solid oxide electrolyzer cell (p-SOEC) concept through fabrication and testing of a p-SOEC cell and the development of a detailed cost estimate model. Project work would occur within existing facilities at UTRC and the University of Connecticut in Connecticut. This is a three-year research project that includes multiple budget periods. Only Budget Period 1 (BP1) is being negotiated at this time so this NEPA review is for BP1 activities only. Additional NEPA review will be required if DOE proposes to continue funding the project into subsequent budget periods.

Project work includes the design, fabrication, testing, and characterization of p-SOEC cells at a laboratory scale as well as project management and reporting activities. These activities would utilize standard laboratory equipment and would occur in existing laboratories designed for this type of work; therefore no major modifications, new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations would be necessary. Minor modifications to testing and/or cell fabrication equipment may be required at both facilities. No ground disturbing activities, no changes in operation of existing facilities, and no installation of equipment outdoors would occur at any of the facilities involved in the project. Each of the laboratory facilities would follow the proper procedures for the handling and disposal of gases and chemicals in accordance with each facility's existing environmental health and safety plans and procedures as well as all federal, state, and local environmental regulations. All employees have been trained in these policies and procedures and appropriate equipment is in place at each facility to minimize the health and safety risks to both employees and the public. Other non-hazardous wastes would be disposed of in accordance with established procedures at each facility and would comply with all local regulations. The University of Connecticut would be utilizing nanoscale materials during this project. These materials would be handled in laboratory facilities with appropriate equipment designed and dedicated for these purposes. All waste would be handled and disposed of in accordance with existing environmental health and safety procedures and would comply with all local regulation. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to

resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the tasks within BP1 of the proposal fit within the class of action(s) and the integral elements of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021 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. Tasks and subtasks within BP1 of the 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 Periods 2 and 3
This restriction does not preclude you from:
All tasks and subtasks associated with Budget Period 1
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 :

Fuel Cell Technologies Office
This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland Date: 6/28/2017
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