PMC-ND (1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: NOTA STATE: DC

PROJECT TITLE Notice of Opportunity for Technical Assistance for Techno-Economic Studies of Pumped-Storage Hydropower

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number Procurement Instrument Number NEPA Control Number CID Number DE-FOA-0001838 GFO-NOTA1838-001

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:

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and

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 dissemination informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

Rationale for determination:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to issue a Notice of Opportunity for Technical Assistance (NOTA) (DE-FOA-0001838) that would lead to the selection of two entities to receive technical assistance through the use of a specifically-assembled Technical Assistance team comprised of subject matter experts from DOE national laboratories.

This NOTA is intended to produce a thorough economic analysis of the value of pumped storage hydro at two sites in the United States that have high-levels of intermittent renewable energy generation. The analysis could include techno-economic studies, power market analysis, financial analysis, valuation analysis, and reporting.

This NOTA is intended for public and private for-profit and non-profit companies. The entities chosen to receive technical assistance would provide data to a DOE national lab which would conduct the analyses identified above. 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 NOTA, DOE has determined that activities anticipated to be conducted under this NOTA fit within the class of action(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that based on the types, scope, and scale of anticipated activities that could be selected under the NOTA: (1) there would be no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) that could affect the significance of the environmental effects of the activities; (2) the activities do not lead to segmentation to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the activities would have independent utility and would not be connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. The issuance of the NOTA and activities to be conducted as a result of the NOTA are 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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

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.

Note to Specialist:

This NEPA Determination applies to the issuance of the NOTA as well as all projects selected under the NOTA, provided the scope of the selected projects remains consistent with the intent of the NOTA as currently described. If selected applicants propose to conduct activities under this NOTA which are outside the scope of this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review will be required.

Water Power Office Review completed by Roak Parker, 4.19.18

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:		Signed By: Kristin Kerwin NEPA Compliance Officer	Date:	4/19/2018	
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:	Date:	

Field Office Manager