

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** NYSERDA**STATE:** NY**PROJECT****TITLE:**

National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001767	DE-EE0008390	GFO-0008390-001	GO8390

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:

A1 Routine DOE business actions - Routine actions necessary to support the normal conduct of DOE business limited to administrative, financial, and personnel actions.

A13 Procedural Documents - Administrative, organizational, or procedural Policies, Orders, Notices, Manuals, and Guides.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to form a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity, the "National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium" which would be led by NYSERDA, along with key industry stakeholders and research institutions. The Consortium would finance research initiatives seeking to address the technical barriers faced by offshore wind developers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and supply chain partners, with the goal of reducing the Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE) for U.S. offshore wind plants and increasing opportunities for U.S. manufacturing.

The proposed project is divided into four (4) Budget Periods (BPs). This NEPA Determination only addresses Tasks 1-10 and 12-16 in BP1. These tasks are limited to activities involving the establishment and development of an Offshore Wind Consortium and do not involve research and development (R&D) activities. Task 11 'Project Procurement and Contracting' would involve making subawards for R&D projects. Subawarded projects may potentially include modeling, analysis, preliminary design, lab-scale research, instrumentation, monitoring, site characterization, or ground disturbing activities. Each sub-award negotiated by the Consortium would require additional NEPA analysis prior to being awarded. Accordingly, Task 11 and all subawards will be subject to additional NEPA review at a later date, when additional information is available. Budget Periods 2-4 will also require additional NEPA review.

Proposed project activities include Consortium formation (e.g. incorporation, Bylaws development, and governing procedures; definition of Consortium structure and operating procedures (e.g. Consortium and members); development of communications and outreach strategies; stakeholder engagement; establishment of Consortium membership eligibility requirements and related policies; development of a research pillars roadmap; and development of templates (e.g. Project Financial, IP, and Contractual), Terms and Conditions, Guidelines and Policies.

Project activities would be carried out by NYSERDA at its existing offices in Albany, NY. All project activities would be administrative in nature and would not result in any significant emissions or waste, beyond those attributable to standard office activities. No change in the use, mission, or operation of NYSERDA's existing facilities would arise out of these efforts. NYSERDA would comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local environmental regulations.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the following task(s): Budget Period 1, Tasks 1-10 and 12-16, fit(s) 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. Budget Period 1, Tasks 1-10 and 12-16 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 1: Task 11: Project Procurement and Contracting

Budget Periods 2-4: All tasks

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Budget Period 1:

Task 1: Consortium Formation

Task 2: Consortium Structure and Procedures

Task 3: Membership Operating Principles, Consortium Communication Activities, and Industry Stakeholder Outreach

Task 4: Develop Key Research Facility Outreach & Collaboration Agreements

Task 5: Grow Consortium Membership

Task 6: Tech to Market Group Membership Outreach enabling Research and Commercialization Investment Strategy

Task 7: Public Sponsor Outreach and Participation Strategy

Task 8: Roadmap

Task 9 Competitive Solicitations Process and Solicitation

Task 10: Project Financial, IP, and Contractual Template, Terms and Conditions, Guidelines and Policies

Task 12: Project Management and Reporting

Task 13: Quarterly Board of Directors Meetings

Task 14: Annual Consortium Technical Conference and General Meeting

Task 15: Quarterly meetings of Advisory Groups

Task 16: Quarterly Tech Transfer Meetings

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 Energy Technologies Office

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA Provision.

NEPA review completed by Jonathan Hartman, 10/5/2018

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

 Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 10/9/2018

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: _____
Field Office Manager

Date: _____