

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:** Integral Consulting

**STATE:** WA

**PROJECT TITLE:** Standardized and Cost-Effective Benthic Habitat Mapping and Monitoring Tools for MHK Environmental Assessments

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001418	DE-EE0007826	GFO-0007826-003	GO7826

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), 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 funding to the Integral Consulting Inc. (Integral) to standardize and automate seafloor and sediment imaging technologies for rapidly characterizing sediment and biota and generating benthic habitat maps across a range of environments.

The proposed project would be divided into three Budget Periods, with a Go/No Go decision point between each Budget Period. DOE previously completed two NEPA reviews for Budget Period 1 (BP1) (GFO-0007822-001 CX A9 and B3.16, 12/08/2016) and BP2 (GFO-0007822-002 CX A9 and B3.16, 1/05/2018). In BP1 and 2, Integral field tested their sediment imaging device at the Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL) Marine Science Laboratory (MSL), specifically in Sequim Bay, WA, and then analyzed that data. In BP3 Integral proposes to test the device in the open ocean off the coast of Oregon. This NEPA determination applies to BP3.

BP 3 includes 6 tasks, tasks 11-16. In sub-task 11.1 Integral plans to develop a testing plan for the proposed Budget Period 3 in water testing. Sub-task 11.1 would consist solely of information gathering and analysis. The remainder of task 11, subtasks 11.2 – 11.4, would involve testing the device in the open ocean, pursuant to the test plan developed in subtask 11.1. Because a test plan has not yet been developed and a testing location identified, there is not enough information at this time to meaningfully evaluate subtasks 11.2 – 11.4. Integral will need complete the test plan and to prepare a Biological Evaluation for the proposed testing before these subtasks can be evaluated.

Tasks 12, 13, 14, and 16 are all dependent upon data to be gathered during the proposed in water testing. As such, these tasks cannot be meaningfully evaluated at this time.

Task 15 would involve developing a regulatory outreach plan. This would include identifying stakeholders, conducting interviews with stakeholders, and presenting results from BP 1 and 2. This task involves only information gathering, analysis and dissemination.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

All Budget Period 1 Tasks  
All Budget Period 2 Tasks  
Sub-task 11.1 Develop in Water Testing Plan  
Task 15 Regulatory Outreach

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Sub-task 11.2 In Water Survey  
Sub-task 11.3 Traditional SPI/PV Image Analysis  
Sub-task 11.4 Automated SPI/PV Image Analysis  
Task 12 Update Training Data Set  
Task 13 Refinements of BP1 and BP2 Image Processing Algorithms  
Task 14 iSPI Updates and BP3 Algorithm Integration  
Task 16 Final Reporting

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

The Recipient must prepare a Biological Evaluation for the in-water testing proposed in Budget Period 3 - Sub-tasks 11.2, 11.3, and 11.4.

Notes:

Water Power Technology Office  
This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision  
NEPA review completed by Roak Parker 2/8/19

#### FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

 Electronically  
Signed By:

Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/14/2019

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

- ☒ Field Office Manager review not required
- ☐ Field Office Manager review required

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

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