

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: US Department of Energy

STATE: DC

PROJECT
TITLE: PRIZE: Waves to Water

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		GFO-WavesPrize-001	

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 (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 authorize the administration of a prize competition, known as the Waves to Water Prize, designed to develop wave energy powered desalination systems. The Waves to Water Prize would be a 4-Stage contest to accelerate the development of small, modular, wave-powered desalination systems capable of potable drinking water. The prize context would be administered by DOE and the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL).

The first stage, known as CONCEPT, would involve competitors providing to DOE written concept papers which describe their ideas. Up to 20 competitors will be selected as winners and could receive a cash prize of \$10,000. The second stage, known as DESIGN, would involve competitors providing to DOE detailed technical plans and supporting analysis of their proposed system. Up to 20 competitors will be selected as winners and could receive a cash prize of up to \$100,000. Stages 1 and 2 would consist of information gathering, analysis and dissemination. The third stage, known as CREATE, would involve competitors fabricating a functional prototype of their system to demonstrate proof of concept. Competitors would then present proof of concept to DOE. Competitors would not need to win or compete in stages 1 or 2 to compete in stage 3. Up to 10 winners would be selected who then could compete in the fourth stage. DOE's action in stages 1, 2 and 3 would be limited to reviewing information and data presented by competitors and awarding cash prizes. There is no restriction on use of, or requirement for use of, cash prizes. Stages 1, 2 and 3 are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

The fourth stage, known as DRINK, would involve winners of the CREATE stage fabricating a scale model of their system and then presenting the system to DOE. DOE would then test the system in a controlled ocean environment. Competitors would only be allowed to compete in stage 4 if selected by DOE. DOE has not determined where testing would occur, nor have specific devices been identified which would be tested. As such, there is not enough information at this time to meaningfully evaluate stage 4. Stage 4 is restricted until further NEPA review is completed.

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.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

Stage 1: CONCEPT

Stage 2: DESIGN

Stage 3: CREATE

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

Stage 4: DRINK

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.

Notes:

Water Power Program

Roak Parker - June 6, 2019

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: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/6/2019

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: _____