

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: Elevate Energy

STATE: IL

PROJECT TITLE: Chicago Energy Efficiency Planning and Analysis, and Integrated Retrofit Strategy Validation in Single Family Homes

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002099	DE-EE0009077	GFO-0009077-001	GO9077

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.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Elevate Energy (Elevate) to develop a Chicago residential energy retrofit strategy aligned with City priorities for energy efficiency, energy affordability, resiliency, equity and transparency. With the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) as a partner, Elevate would characterize the housing stock and energy use characteristics using modeling to then develop energy retrofit packages suitable for field validation in single family homes. Field validation could include integration with demand response, battery storage, and/or renewable energy technologies. The project would be completed over three Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP. Only BP1 is being reviewed at this time as the information developed during BP1 would inform and define the activities going forward into BP2. At this time, there is not enough information to complete a review of BP2 and BP3 activities. Once additional details of project technology packages and field validation locations are defined, another NEPA review will be required to assess potential impacts associated with activities in BP2 and BP3.

In BP1, the project team would run city-scale measure package scenarios using NREL's ResStock analysis tool that would meet Chicago's goals and provide feasible energy consumption reduction of 50% in existing homes. ResStock model baselines would be confirmed to be representative of the Chicago housing stock characteristics and energy baselines. NREL would provide ResStock training to the project team and the team would commence geo-spatial analysis to map ResStock outputs to community areas and census tracts. Using ResStock, the project team would conduct advanced technologies scenario and package development by modeling common home types as informed by the baseline analysis. A field validation study design and plan would be drafted to include proposed number of homes, home selection criteria, recruitment, monitoring, estimated savings, costs per home, and co-funding needs for the field validation. The project team would convene regular working meetings (at minimum, quarterly) on the recruitment and engagement of candidate homes, field monitoring of technologies and collection of energy consumption data, and development of homeowner enrollment process. All BP1 activities would consist exclusively of intellectual, academic, or analytical activities such as information gathering, data analysis, and data dissemination. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities in BP1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

[Budget Period 1](#)

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

[Budget Periods 2 and 3](#)

Notes:

[Building Technologies Office](#)

[This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.](#)

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:  [Casey Strickland](#)
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: [4/29/2020](#)

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: _____