

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Cold Climate Housing Research Center**STATE:** AK**PROJECT TITLE:** Incentivizing Cold-Climate Efficiency in Juneau

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-002099	DE-EE0009079	GFO-0009079-001	GO9079

**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 the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) for the facilitation and technical support of a residential energy efficiency pilot program in Juneau, Alaska focused on the installation of ductless heat pumps and energy efficiency measures. The project team would also conduct technical field validation and analysis of the pilot program to validate energy savings and fuel displacement of energy efficiency retrofits. Analysis work would occur within offices in Alaska, Washington, and Colorado. Project outreach, workforce development, and business opportunity development would occur through in-person workshops and events in Southeast Alaska and virtually via videoconference. The project would interview occupants and perform energy audits of up to 150 homes in Juneau, Alaska. The homes would be recruited during the project for participating in the energy efficiency program.

DOE project activities would be limited to coordination; outreach; data collection, management, storage, and analysis; creation of workforce development materials; drafting, revising, and reviewing of reports and outreach materials; and meetings, classes, workshops, forums, and focus groups. The project would host a workshop in conjunction with the annual Southeast Conference meeting, which rotates between various towns in Southeast Alaska that would include informational sessions, courses, presentations, or facilitated forums. Home occupants would fill out three surveys during the course of the study, and open their home for an in-person inspection by a certified energy auditor. If installation activities occur at a residence, that location would also have an energy audit completed after installation to compare pre- and post-installation data. Project activities consist of intellectual, academic, and analytical activities only such as energy audits, data analysis, and data dissemination. Energy audits and data collection activities would require the recipient to perform visits at residences but DOE funded project activities do not require any physical modification of residences, ground disturbing activities, or installation of equipment.

The residences where these activities would occur depend on which homeowners choose to be involved in the project which is not known at this time. While the DOE funded project activities would not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming they were present, the project is connected to other work currently being done by organizations in Juneau Alaska to help facilitate the installation of up to 100 heat pumps and up to 50 energy efficiency retrofits on Juneau residences. While no project funding would be used for the installation of the ductless heat pumps and energy efficiency measures, the DOE project would facilitate homeowners with understanding the technologies involved and would connect them with qualified contractors to perform the work so that those installations may not occur if not for the DOE project. DOE considers the installations as connected actions to the DOE funded project and therefore will consider potential impacts associated with those installations within this NEPA review. Installation of ductless heat pumps and energy efficiency measures are designed to promote energy efficiency and therefore fall within categorical exclusion B5.1 "Actions to conserve energy or water." Installation activities would

have the potential to affect historic resources if those resources were present. In consultation with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) it was determined that, to help ensure historic properties are not adversely impacted by installation activities, CCHRC must contact the Alaska SHPO to consider the potential impacts to any historic-age homes (older than 45 years) selected for installation of ductless heat pumps and/or energy efficiency measures.

DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

The Recipient must contact the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to consider the potential impacts to any historic-age homes (older than 45 years) selected for installation of ductless heat pumps and/or energy efficiency measures.

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.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/30/2020

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_