

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Pacific Ocean Energy Trust

STATE: OR

PROJECT TITLE: Network Director for the TEAMER Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0008895	GFO-0008895-004	GO8895

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.)
- B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects** Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.
- B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects** Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Pacific Ocean Energy Trust (POET) to administer the Testing and Access for Marine Energy Research (TEAMER) program. The primary objective of TEAMER is to provide marine hydrokinetic (MHK) technology developers access to a network of United States based testing facilities which provide testing and modeling expertise. Access would be provided through competitively awarded funds awarded under TEAMER and administered by POET. POET would be advised by a Technical Board which would include representatives from DOE, DOE National Labs, and National Marine Renewable Energy Centers. There would be up to nine funding cycles.

The proposed project would be divided into 4 tasks. DOE previously completed three NEPA reviews for tasks 1, 2, and subtask 3.1 (GFO-0008895-001 CX A9; 11/14/2019) for subtasks 3.2, 3.3.1 to 3.3.9, 3.4 and task 4 (GFO-0008895-002 CX A9, B3.6; 07/22/2020) including the identification of and approval of 15 research facilities to conduct research and testing. And, for specific Technical Support Recipients under subtask 3.3.1 (GFO-0008895-003 CX A9, B3.6; 10/22/2020). This review is for additional proposed research facilities under task 3.2.

Under Sub-tasks 3.2 POET would select participants to receive assistance from approved testing facilities. POET previously identified fifteen (15) testing facilities and defined the scope of the testing to be provided at those facilities. Those facilities were reviewed and approved in ND GFO-0008895-002. POET has now identified six (6) additional facilities. All technical assistance to be provided is at these additional is limited to the type of assistance described below. If additional facilities are identified to offer technical assistance, or type of assistance is modified a new NEPA review must be completed regarding those proposed changes. All facilities identified below could offer information gathering, computer modeling, and data analysis.

The six additional facilities identified by POET are:

1. MarineSitu Inc. Work at MarineSitu software and instrumentation support.
2. The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). Work at the BSEE would include tank testing in an outdoor test tank located in Leonardo, New Jersey. The outdoor tank is approximately 200 meters long by 20 meters wide and 3.4 meters deep. This is a federal facility.
3. Alden Research Laboratory, Inc. (Alden) (two locations). Work at Alden could include fabrication and testing of proposed models. Alden's test tank is an indoor wave tank with approximate dimensions of 34 meters long by 6 meters wide with a maximum depth of 4.75 meters. All work would be conducted in one of Alden's two existing fabrication and testing facilities, located in Holden, Massachusetts, or Everett, Washington. Tank testing would occur at the Holden facility.
4. Re Vision Consulting (Re Vision). Work at the Re Vision would be limited to design, modeling, and analysis.
5. Lehigh University. Work at Lehigh University would include testing in a pre-existing approximate .6 meter wide by .6 meter tall by 2 meter long indoor test tank.
6. Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division (Carderock). Work at Carderock tank testing at the Carderock Wave Basin. The Wave basin is an indoor testing facility with an approximate 110 meter long by 73 meter wide wave basin with multiple depths up to 15 meters. This is a federal facility.
7. Penn State University. Work at Penn State would include testing in one of two a pre-existing indoor water tunnels, including a 12 inch tunnel and a 48 inch tunnel.
8. Texas A&M University. Work at Texas A&M would include work at the Offshore Technology Research Center's preexisting wave basin. The basin is an indoor facility with a wave tank approximately 45 meters wide, 100 meters long, and 6 meters deep.
9. Oak Ridge National laboratory (ORNL). Work at ORNL would include work at the Grid Research and Integration Deployment Center, the Aquatic Ecology Laboratory, and the Manufacturing Demonstration Facility. Work could include power testing, generator testing, bench testing, component and structural testing, as well as tank testing. All work would be completed in pre-existing indoor laboratories. This is a federal facility.

All facilities identified above are preexisting research facilities that regularly engage in the kind of research proposed for this award. No new permits or modifications to facilities would be needed. Existing university and laboratory health and safety procedures would be followed at all times during experiments.

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:

All tasks are approved, however selection of technical assistance recipients is subject to additional NEPA review

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

All selections of technical assistance recipients made under Subtask 3.3.1 to 3.3.9 will be subject to additional NEPA review and must receive approval from the Contracting Officer prior to any work being completed on those projects.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

All selections made under Subtask 3.3.1 to 3.3.9 will be subject to additional NEPA review prior to any work being completed on those projects.

All work must be completed by pre-approved facilities identified in subtask 3.2 and listed here or in previous NEPA determinations, and must be the type of work reviewed and approved in the signed NEPA determination(s). Inclusion of additional facilities would require additional NEPA review of those facilities. Approved facilities include:

1. MarineSitu Inc.
2. The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).
3. Alden Research Laboratory, Inc. (Alden) (two locations).
4. Re Vision Consulting (Re Vision).
5. Lehigh University.
6. Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division (Carderock).
7. Penn State University.
8. Texas A&M University.
9. Oak Ridge National laboratory (ORNL).

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Roak Parker, 11/04/2020

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: **Roak Parker**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/4/2020

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: _____