

1 INTRODUCTION

Report Purpose

The Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) is pleased to deliver this first Multi-Year Program Plan (MYPP) to interested stakeholders and the general public. The purpose of this MYPP is to communicate WPTO's overarching goals and potential future initiatives, strategies, programs, and activities and demonstrate alignment to administration, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) priorities. These efforts will help guide WPTO's activities for future years and ensure that priorities and opportunities are transparently communicated. This plan is intended to provide a framework to inform budget formulation, funding opportunity announcement (FOA) plans, lab calls, and lab annual operating plans (AOPs).

However, this report does not contain detailed budget information or specific annual/yearly plans for projects. It assumes relatively consistent funding based on appropriations from recent fiscal years. It also assumes that it may not be feasible to support efforts aligned with all activities at all times because of a range of factors, including budget limitations, competing priorities, policy decisions, or the relative priority for work in a particular time period.

Additionally, the relative level of effort required to support each activity is likely to vary. Activities and projects aligned with the various programmatic approaches are intended to be implemented in a logical, phased manner that focuses resources on high-priority, near-term challenges, while also supporting foundational work necessary to address longer-term challenges moving forward. Details on how each program plans to implement work via specific projects or funding opportunities are limited to internal DOE operational plans and not described in this document.

Report Development Process

The development process for the MYPP and technical appendices were informed by extensive stakeholder engagement over multiple years, including public workshops, requests for information (RFI) on program-level strategies^{14, 15} and WPTO's 2019 Peer Review.¹⁶ DOE's national laboratories are also integral to WPTO's program planning process, and feedback was solicited from the six national laboratories that WPTO currently works with. EERE's MYPP Guidance and Templates¹⁷ were also utilized in formulating this document.

¹⁴ U.S. Department of Energy, 2016. "RFI on a Draft Marine and Hydrokinetics (MHK) Program Strategy." <https://www.energy.gov/eere/water/articles/wpto-releases-updated-draft-mhk-strategy>.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Energy, 2020. "RFI: Hydropower Program R&D Strategy and HydroWIREs Research Roadmap." <https://www.energy.gov/eere/water/articles/wpto-issues-rfi-hydropower-program-rd-strategy-and-hydrowires-research-roadmap/>.

¹⁶ WPTO Peer Review website: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/water/2019-water-power-program-peer-review-report-and-presentations>.

¹⁷ Publicly available multi-year program plan guidance can be found at: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/08/f33/EERE%20800%20-%20MYPP%20Guidance%20and%20Template.pdf>.