



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination

Categorical Exclusion

Recipient:	To be determined
State:	Multiple
Project Title:	Developing Shared Principles for Community Collaboration for OCED Projects
Funding Opportunity Announcement Number:	N/A
Award Number:	N/A
OCED NEPA Control Number:	OCED-PIA-002-CX

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:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPENDIX, NUMBER, AND 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:

In November 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Broad Agency Announcement indicating an interest in entering into one or multiple agreements with Partnership Intermediaries (PI) to work with DOE's Office of Technology Transfer, other DOE programs, and DOE National Laboratories and Facilities. Through one or more Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA), DOE would expand its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem and address gaps facing companies, organizations and communities seeking to engage with DOE and/or develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission.

The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) is proposing to execute a PIA to establish Shared Principles for Community Collaboration (Shared Principles). The Shared Principles process would bring together community stakeholders, project awardees, and OCED to collaborate, integrate local communities into DOE decision-making, and support the realization of a just clean energy transition. Through this PIA, OCED would provide support to local organizations that can convene stakeholders and manage logistics of meetings and workshops.

Under this agreement, a PI would serve as the facilitator and collaborate with third-party performers on efforts that support Shared Principles objectives. Work would be completed in two phases. Phase 1 would include market research and establishing business to businesses (B2B) agreements with local organizations. Phase 2 would include implementation of the Shared Principles process and final reporting.

Activities would be limited to administrative activities including but not limited to planning, relationship building, market research, virtual or in-person meetings, communication, and reporting. Adverse impacts to sensitive resources are not anticipated as a result of this work.

☒ 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 1501.9(e)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant

impacts (40 CFR 1508.1(g)(3)) 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.

☐ DOE has determined that work to be carried out outside of the United States, its territories and possessions is exempt from further review pursuant to Section 5.1.1 of the DOE Final Guidelines for Implementation of Executive Order 12114; "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions."

☒ The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

☐ A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Notes:

This categorical exclusion applies to OCED's PIA to establish and implement the Shared Principles for Community Collaboration. OCED may execute additional PIAs in the future. Future PIAs will be subject to NEPA review when sufficient information is available for DOE to conduct a meaningful analysis of potential impacts to the human environment.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

OCED NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Date: