



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination

Categorical Exclusion

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| Recipient: | Multiple |
| State: | Multiple |
| Project Title: | Manufacture of Advanced Key Energy Infrastructure Technologies (MAKE IT) Prize |
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: | N/A |
| Award Number: | N/A |
| OCED NEPA Control Number: | OCED-MAKE IT-001-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.)

Rationale for Determination:

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Technology Transitions (OTT), Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) are proposing to launch the Manufacture of Advanced Key Energy Infrastructure Technologies (MAKE IT) Prize.

DOE's goal is to catalyze domestic manufacturing to enable replication and commercial liftoff of clean energy demonstration projects, moving manufacturing facilities of critical clean energy technology components from planning to shovel-ready and enabling communities to prepare strategies for vibrant manufacturing activity in their area. The MAKE IT Prize is comprised of two tracks:

- (1) Facilities Track – U.S.-based entities and teams successfully complete the necessary work leading to shovel-ready facilities of critical clean energy components with the goal of establishing a robust and secure domestic supply chain for components deemed critical for the commercialization of clean energy technologies. This track is open to both construction of new facilities, revitalization of shuttered facilities, brownfield development, and repurposing existing facilities.
- (2) Strategies Track – Collaborative teams working to promote manufacturing activity, economic development, growth, and quality of life in their region or community prepare a credible roadmap to becoming a clean energy manufacturing hub and demonstrate interest by an outside entity in establishing a clean energy manufacturing facility in the region. The objective of this track is to build interest, engagement, and community involvement around clean energy manufacturing, economic development, and job creation, particularly within disadvantaged communities.

The Facilities Track would be executed in two phases. In Phase 1, DOE would award prize funds to successful competitors that submit plans that demonstrate a credible plan to establish a manufacturing facility. In Phase 2, DOE would award prize funds to successful competitors that demonstrate that they are “shovel ready” for the construction or repurposing of a manufacturing facility, including control of a site, permits obtained, financing secured, and proof of meaningful local community engagement.

The Strategies Track would be executed in three phases. Prize funds would be awarded to successful competitors that demonstrate having a finalized roadmap to attract manufacturing activity in their region and at least one letter of commitment from an interested manufacturer. Submissions from competitors throughout the three phases will be related to stakeholder engagement, paper studies, and writing of a roadmap document.

There would be no research, development, demonstration, ground disturbing work, or construction related to the preparation of prize submissions.

☒ 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 determination applies to Phase 1 of the Facilities Track and all phases of the Strategies Track. DOE will complete additional NEPA review prior to executing Phase 2 of the Facilities Track.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

OCED NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Date: 06/06/2023