

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



RECIPIENT: RAPID Manufacturing Institute

STATE: NY

PROJECT TITLE: RAPID ADVANCEMENT IN PROCESS INTENSIFICATION DEPLOYMENT (RAPID)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0011122	GFO-0011122-001	

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.
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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to The RAPID Manufacturing Institute (RAPID) to coordinate, organize, and support activities related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, activities in education and workforce development, and activities in support of future technological development projects, however, the current effort is limited to the development of project and portfolio management for the technological development program.

Activities under the current review would be limited to institute management, project management, techno-economic analysis/life cycle assessment and other office-based work at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Office in New York, New York. Future efforts would include subrecipients and would be reviewed again for a final NEPA determination once there are chosen by their institute and their efforts are fully understood and scoped.

As currently defined, the project would not include any release of emissions and would not pose any potential hazards to the public. Project workers may be exposed to ergonomic hazards and any other safety risks associated with office work. The use of appropriate office furniture and supplies and safe working practices would help mitigate office-related hazards. The hazards associated with future technology development projects would be added and analyzed once the projects are better defined.

Under Tasks 1 through Subtask 5.1 of Task 5, and Task 6, Subtasks 6.1 and 6.2, there would be no ground disturbing activities, no physical modification to and no change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities.

Subtask 5.2 and Subtask 6.3 of this project are not yet fully defined. Subrecipients are expected as part of this award that would be added in subsequent budget periods, which may include laboratory and/or computational research. The individuals, organizations, and locations for these projects are not yet determined. Therefore, this task as well as Task 6 are not included in this NEPA Determination.

There would be no emissions as part of the current award undertaking. No modifications, permits, licenses, or authorizations would be required under Tasks 1 through Subtask 5.1 of Task 5. DOE does not anticipate any impacts

to resources of concern due to the proposed award activities during those tasks/subtasks. Further NEPA review will be required for the remaining tasks once those activities have been defined and negotiated.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

This NEPA determination applies to the following topic areas, budget periods and/or tasks:

- Tasks 1 through 5, to include Subtask 5.1
- Task 6, Subtasks 6.1 and 6.2

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

The ND does not apply to the following topic area, budget periods, and/or tasks:

- Subtask 5.2 of Task 5 and Subtask 6.3 of Task 6

Notes:

Industrial Efficiency & Decarbonization Office
NEPA review completed by Chris Akios, 06/13/2024

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:



Matthew Blevins

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

6/14/2024

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- ☒ Field Office Manager review not required
- ☐ Field Office Manager review required