



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title:

Program or Field Office:

Location(s) (City/County/State):

Proposed Action Description:

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined:



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Exploratory Topic H - Subsurface Engineering for Hydrogen Reservoir Management (DE-FOA-0002784)

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): CA, IL, LA, MA, MT, NJ, NM, PA, TX, WA

Proposed Action Description:

Exploratory Topic H - Subsurface Engineering for Hydrogen Reservoir Management (Topic H) seeks to develop technologies relevant to the extraction of geologic hydrogen. Specifically, methods such as identifying, managing, and monitoring hydrogen reservoirs, subsurface transport methods and engineered containment, as well as assessing the risk of hydrogen reservoir development will be researched, analyzed, and applied. If successful, Topic H projects will result in low cost and low environmental impact production of hydrogen fuels from subsurface sources.

The Subsurface Engineering for Hydrogen Reservoir Management Program is composed of 7 small-scale research and development projects that will be conducted by universities, federal laboratories, and small businesses. This Determination includes all 7 projects (see Attachment A). These projects fit within the class of actions identified under the DOE Categorical Exclusions identified below. This assessment was based on a review of the proposed scope of work and the potential environmental impacts of each project. All project tasks will be conducted in accordance with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and Local regulatory requirements.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

B3.6 - Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

B3.15 - Small-scale indoor research and development projects using nanoscale materials

B3.1 - Site characterization and environmental monitoring

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☒ The proposal 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☒ The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **GEOFFREY GOODE**

Digitally signed by GEOFFREY GOODE
Date: 2024.04.24 10:24:18 -04'00'

Date Determined:

Attachment A: Projects in the Exploratory Topic H - Subsurface Engineering for Hydrogen Reservoir Management (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002784)

Prime Recipient (Control No.)	Project Title	Categorical Exclusion
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (2784-1755)	Cyclic Injection for Commercial Seismic-Safe Geologic H2 Production (CyclicGeoH2)	A9, B3.6, B3.1
Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (2784-1771)	ULTRA-H2: Reservoir Management of Natural Hydrogen from Ultramafic Rocks	A9, B3.6
University of Southern California (2784-1776)	Multiscale Characterization, Transport, and Mechanics for Enhanced H2 Recovery and Reservoir Management	A9, B3.6
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (2784-1778)	Subsurface Engineering Solutions and Management for Sustainable In-Situ Hydrogen Production and Economic Extraction	A9, B3.6, B3.1
University of Texas at Austin (2784-1795)	Foam-Assisted Enhanced Hydrogen Recovery (EHR)	A9, B3.6, B3.15
Eden Geopower (2784-1810)	Engineered Geologic Hydrogen Battery for Long-Term Energy Storage	A9, B3.6
Pennsylvania State University (2784-1791)	Developing an Integrated Technology for Subsurface Hydrogen Harvesting through Reservoir Creation and Management	A9, B3.6, B3.1