

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



RECIPIENT: Wind Energy Technology Office

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Provision 41007(b)(2), Wind Turbine Technology Recycling

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0003373

Procurement Instrument Number

NEPA Control Number
GFO-FOA-0003373-001

CID Number

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.)

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) Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) is proposing to issue the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Provision 41007(b)(2), Wind Turbine Technology Recycling Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO; DE-FOA-0003373). Through this BIL-funded NOFO, DOE via the WETO Program would provide federal funding to accelerate the acceptance of recycling and reuse of wind energy materials. Goals of this funding include reducing or eliminating carbon emissions and other negative resource impacts related to new component manufacturing as well as reducing the dependence of the domestic clean energy economy on internationally sourced materials, including critical materials. The NOFO includes three Topic Areas.

Topic Area 1 – Enabling Sustainable Wind Turbine Components

Topic Area 2 – Enabling Wind Turbine Material Recycling and Reuse Processes

Topic Area 3 – Recycled and Recyclable Material Qualification

DOE has reviewed the descriptions of each Topic Area and concluded that this NEPA Determination (ND) will only apply to awards selected under Topic Areas 1 and 2. This ND does not apply to Topic Area 3. Topic Area 3 will be addressed in a separate ND, i.e., GFO-FOA-0003373-002.

Topic Areas 1 and 2 are focused on technology development and the advancement of innovative products and processes towards commercial deployment. Topic Area 1 specifically is seeking applicants that can accelerate development and adoption of novel materials and component designs that would increase the sustainability and recyclability of wind energy systems. Topic Area 2 goals are similar in that applicants are being sought for the acceleration of development but focuses on the adoption of novel recycling and reuse processes for decommissioned wind components and manufacturing waste.

Federal funding provided by DOE to successful applicants would support activities involving R&D in controlled laboratory spaces or dedicated facilities as well as information gathering, data collection, data analysis, and document preparation activities. All facilities being utilized would be preexisting, purpose-built facilities for the type of work to be conducted for this award. Facility modifications would not be required. This ND does NOT cover awards proposing ground disturbing activities, facility modifications, or any outdoor work. If an award proposes any of the aforementioned activities not covered under this ND or cannot meet all conditions put forth in this ND, the award must be submitted for individual NEPA review and receive a separate ND before work can start.

Award activities would involve typical hazards associated with laboratory work, operation of potentially hazardous equipment, and site-specific environmental hazards. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed to mitigate hazards to acceptable levels. Mitigated hazards would pose negligible risks to the public and environment. All activities would comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

[Topic Areas 1 and 2 of DE-FOA-0003373](#)

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

[Topic Area 3 of DE-FOA-0003373](#)

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

NEPA Determination (ND), GFO-FOA-0003373-001, applies to awards selected under Topic Areas 1 and 2 of Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) DE-FOA-0003373, provided the scope of the selected awards remain consistent with the intent of Topic Areas 1 and 2 (as issued) and the selected awards adherence to all conditions put forth in the ND. If selected applicants propose to use award funds for activities outside of the scope of the ND and/or if selected awards propose ground disturbing activities, facility modifications, or any outdoor work, the award must be submitted for individual NEPA review and receive a separate ND before work can start.

All applicable facility permits/authorizations related to the operation of equipment or processes being utilized for award activities must be obtained and up to date prior to award work starting.

All award activities must comply with existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures. If currently not in place, selected applicants must ensure these policies and procedures are established prior to award work starting.

Notes:

[Wind Energy Technologies Office \(WETO\)](#)

[This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.](#)

[NEPA review completed by Corrin MacLuckie, 11/27/2024.](#)

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:  Electronically Signed By: Matthew Blevins Date: 12/2/2024
NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

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

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager