

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



RECIPIENT: Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

STATE: VT

PROJECT TITLE : Whole Home Efficiency (Aka Clean Heat Homes)

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
CSDP

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-SE0000730

NEPA Control Number
GFO-SE0000730-001

CID Number
GO730

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide Congressionally Directed Spending to Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) to create a program to enable low and moderate income Vermont citizens to pursue "whole home" climate improvements which may include a combination of weatherization, efficient heat systems, project coordination support, and electrification-ready upgrades.

The proposed efforts would consist of purely intellectual and technical assistance, and community engagement activities. Activities would focus on partner coordination, development of a program plan, and initial funding for a Home Energy Advisor role as well as weatherization and heat pump incentives. The program would be administered by VEIC of Winooski, VT and serve homeowners throughout the state, providing assistance such as identifying community needs, concerns, and inequities and solutions.

Award activities associated with this NEPA determination (ND) involve information gathering and dissemination, data analysis, document preparation, technical advice and assistance, and preliminary engineering/design. This ND only applies to Phase I activities which includes project initiation, planning, contracting, design, and budget confirmation. No physical modifications to existing facilities, ground disturbance, or changes to the use, mission, or operations of existing facilities would be required.

There would be no anticipated hazards associated with this award as all activities would take place in an entirely intellectual context at existing, purpose-built organizations. No change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort. As such, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed Phase I activities. Any changes to project activities are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for federal funding unless and until the DOE Contracting Officer provides written authorization on those modifications.

This ND does not apply to Phase II or Phase III activities. DOE will complete the NEPA review for Phase II and Phase III when sufficient information is available to conduct a meaningful review. Sufficient information would include the engineering/design plans at each proposed award location as well as detailed information such as size, scale, and dimensions of activities and equipment.

The recipient is responsible for reviewing the online NEPA and Historic preservation PowerPoint trainings at www.energy.gov/node/4816816 and contacting NEPA with any questions at GONEPA@ee.doe.gov.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

[Phase I](#)

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

[Phase II and Phase III](#)

Notes:

[Office of State and Community Energy Programs – Congressionally Directed Project](#)
[NEPA review completed by Emma Luther, 03/28/25](#)

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: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/31/2025

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: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____