



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination Categorical Exclusion

Recipient: Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT)

State: Maine

Project Title: Whole Home Heat Pump Solutions for Mobile and Manufactured Homes – Phases 1B, 2, 3

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0002970

Award Number: DE-CD0000068

OCED NEPA Control Number: OCED-00068-002-CX

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.)

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water: (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors.

Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) Have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination: DOE's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) is proposing to provide funding to Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) in support of their project to install approximately 675 ducted heat pumps (HPs) for Heating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) for mobile and manufactured homes (M/MHs) heat pump retrofits.

Project activities would include:

- Programmatic design and planning activities
- Procurement activities
- Training and workforce development activities
- Coordination with local stakeholders
- Preparation and coordination of waitlist for heat pumps
- Heat pump installation

DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts to sensitive resources as a result of the proposed activities.

Related regulatory requirements: EMT will work to complete the Section 106 NHPA process through the signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between EMT, DOE, and the Maine State Historic Preservation Office (ME SHPO). As outlined in the MOA, EMT will identify candidate homes and submit required documentation in order for DOE to complete consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA with the ME SHPO. If there is a finding of no historic properties affected or no adverse effect, the installation may proceed. Funding will not be authorized for an installation and related installation activities cannot be undertaken prior to DOE concluding Section 106 consultation relative to the installation.

Signature of this Categorical Exclusion determination affirms that:

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal described in 'rationale for determination') 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, is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by any applicable regulation concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Any 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."

Conditions:

1. If the Recipient proposes to add to or modify the activities or locations described herein, those new activities/locations will be subject to additional NEPA review.
2. All required permits and approvals must be obtained before work can begin and all work must be completed in accordance with all required permits and approvals.
3. All cultural resource identification activities (e.g., archaeological, historic above ground, historic visual assessments) must be completed in accordance with the MOA and applicable guidelines and standards provided by the SHPO and the Secretary of the Interior's Identification Standards.

Signature of this memorandum constitutes a record of this decision.

OCED NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Date: