



## **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination**

### **Categorical Exclusion**

**Recipient:** Membrane Technology and Research, Inc (MTR)

**State:** WY

**Project Title:** Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage Project at Dry Fork Station

**Funding Opportunity Announcement Number:** DE-FOA-0002738

**Award Number:** CD-0000015

**OCED NEPA Control Number:** OCED-000015-CX-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:**

**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.)

**Rationale for Determination:** OCED is proposing to provide funding to Membrane Technology and Research, Inc (MTR) in support of the Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage Project at Dry Fork Station. The proposed project would update MTR's prior full-scale carbon capture front-end engineering design (FEED) study of Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station coal-fired power plant to increase CO<sub>2</sub> capture. Data, reporting, and lessons learned from the Wyoming CarbonSAFE FEED study of the pipeline and storage field development plan would be incorporated into this study. Project participants would conduct FEED studies for the carbon capture plant, the transportation pipeline, and the injection well storage complex. The project would also include the development of a community engagement plan and lifecycle cost assessments. No laboratory activities, fieldwork, or construction would be conducted.

This project would be executed in two budget periods (BPs). During BP1, the scope of BP2 will be defined. This categorical exclusion applies to BP1 only. BP2 is subject to NEPA review when sufficient details are available to conduct a meaningful review of potential impacts.

**Consultations (Section 106 NHPA, Section 7 ESA, etc):** None required.

☒ 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 1501.9(e)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.1(g)(3)) 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.

☐ DOE has determined that 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."

☒ The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

☐ A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**Notes:** This categorical exclusion applies to BP1 only. If the Recipient proposes to add to or modify the activities or locations described in this CX determination, those new activities/locations or modified activities/locations will be subject to additional NEPA review.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

OCED NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Date: