



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 – Phase 1A

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0002970

Award Number: DE-CD0000068

OCED NEPA Control Number: OCED-00068-001-CX

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:

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.

At this time, DOE is proposing to provide funding in support of EMT planning and design activities only; those activities are described below. The planning and design activities completed in Phase 1A would inform additional DOE NEPA review and a go/no-go decision prior to authorizing federal funding in support of subsequent project phases.

In Phase 1A, EMT would include:

- Desktop Work
- Data Collection and Analysis which may include:
 - Customer surveying, e.g.: satisfaction with HP, energy consumption and cost from customers' electricity bill, etc.

- HP or M/MHs metering, e.g.: electricity consumption and for HP heat, airflow, etc. for M/MH.
- Analysis, e.g.: indoor air quality, temperature, moisture, and heat and cooling distribution throughout the M/MH.
- Calculations, e.g.: air changes per hour (AC/H), etc.
- Site selection for existing and potential sites for BP 2 and/or later BPs.
- Detailed Project Planning
- Property / Deed documentation location
- It may include a “Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)” as defined by ASTM E1527 which typically includes the following (source: What is a Phase I ESA | Partner Engineering and Science, Inc.):
 - A site visit to observe current and past conditions and uses of the property and adjacent properties;
 - A review of federal, state, tribal, and local regulatory databases including, but not limited to, underground storage tanks (USTs), aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), known or suspected release cases, the storage of hazardous substances and disposal of hazardous wastes including petroleum products, and institutional and engineering controls;
 - A review of historical records, such as historical aerial photographs, fire insurance maps (Sanborn maps), historical city directories, and historical topographic maps;
 - A review of state and local agency records, including but not limited to state environmental agencies, Building Departments, Fire Departments, and Health Departments.
 - Interviews with current and past property owners, operators, and occupants, or others familiar with the property.
 - Interviews with the Report User for title or judicial records for environmental liens and activity and use limitations (AULs); specialized knowledge or experience; actual knowledge; commonly known or reasonably ascertainable information; the reason for a significantly lower purchase price; and the reason for the preparation of the Phase I ESA. It is the Users responsibility to provide this information to qualify for the innocent landowner defense.

No ground disturbance or other activities that will have an environmental impact are anticipated at this time for Phase 1A.

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

Consultations (Section 106 NHPA, Section 7 ESA, etc.): None required for the activities included in this CX Determination.

☒ 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 those activities listed above for information gathering, analysis and dissemination. Any changes to the project activities or location are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for federal funding unless and until the Contracting Officer provides written authorization on those additions or modifications.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

OCED NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Date: