



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination Categorical Exclusion

Recipient: Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation

State: Ohio

Project Title: 100% Hydrogen-Ready Flex-Fuel Direct Reduced Ironmaking and Electric Melting Furnace Retrofit at Cleveland-Cliffs Integrated Iron and Steel Facility Project – Phase 1

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0002936

Award Number: CD-0000106

OCED NEPA Control Number: OCED-0000106-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: DOE's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) is proposing to provide funding to Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation for Phase 1 of the 100% Hydrogen-Ready Flex-Fuel Direct Reduced Ironmaking and Electric Melting Furnace Retrofit at Cleveland-Cliffs Integrated Iron and Steel Facility Project.

Phase 1 activities are administrative and include the following actions:

- Selection of a project management firm and engineering partners;
- Engineering design work;
- Project scope refinement;
- Development of a Permitting Plan and submit environmental permit applications;
- Preparation of NEPA documentation;
- Refinement of project budgets;
- Development and refinement of project plans and agreements;

- Development of Phase 2 Project Management Plan;
- Refinement of analysis modeling (e.g., Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA), and financial models);
- Community Benefits tasks; and
- Stakeholder consultation.

Phase 1 activities would be limited to information gathering, analysis, and dissemination work only and would not include any construction, installation, or ground disturbance. The activities completed in Phase 1 would inform additional DOE NEPA review and a go/no-go decision prior to authorizing federal funding in support of subsequent project phases.

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 the administrative activities described above. 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: