

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



RECIPIENT: City of New Orleans

STATE: LA

PROJECT TITLE : NOLA Bike Corps

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0003229

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-SE0001525

NEPA Control Number
GFO-SE0001525-001

CID Number

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.)

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); 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:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the City of New Orleans, LA through the Local Government Energy Program: Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number: DE-FOA-0003229. Through the C-SITE program, the City of New Orleans Office of Resilience and Sustainability (ORS) will work with community partners to grow the city's fleet of shared, electric bikes and train a new generation of e-bike mechanics over a three-year period.

This NEPA Determination (ND) only applies to Budget Period One (BP1) Task 1.0 through Subtask 4.3 activities. The DOE will complete the NEPA review for BP1 Subtask 4.4 and Task 5.0, BP2, and BP3 when sufficient information is available to conduct a meaningful review. Sufficient information would include the engineering/design plans at each bike station location as well as detailed information such as size, scale, and dimensions of bike stations and equipment.

The activities covered by this ND are: executing partner sub-agreements, establish an e-bike mechanic training and bicycling safety curriculum, enroll and train 10-30 students in the e-bike mechanic training program, obtain and deploy new e-bikes (825 cumulatively), and background research to find the best locations for 12 bike stations through a collaborative planning process with the Regional Planning Commission, ORS, and Department of Public Works.

DOE is aware of the November 12, 2024, decision in *Marin Audubon Society v. FAA*, No. 23-1067 (D.C. Cir. Nov. 12, 2024). To the extent that a court may conclude that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA are not judicially enforceable or binding on this agency action, EERE has nonetheless elected to follow those regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, in addition to DOE's procedures/regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, to meet the agency's obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

BP1 Task 1.0 through Subtask 4.3.

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

BP1 Subtask 4.4 and Task 5.0, BP2, and BP3.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. The City of New Orleans must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of Louisiana, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.
2. The City of New Orleans is responsible for reviewing the online NEPA and Historic Preservation training at www.energy.gov/node/4816816 and contacting GONEPA@ee.doe.gov with any NEPA or general historic preservation questions.
3. The City of New Orleans is required to submit an annual historic preservation report. If you have any questions about completing the annual historic preservation report, please contact historicpreservation@ee.doe.gov and include your DOE Project Officer on the email.

Notes:

The City of New Orleans must review and adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the state of Louisiana to ensure protection of cultural resources. The recipient must have satisfied their Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requirements before the issuance of the final ND for the remaining budget periods and tasks.

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: _____



Matthew Blevins

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/3/2025

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: _____