

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



**RECIPIENT:** Rutgers University

**STATE:** NJ

**PROJECT TITLE :** W2ET LAB: A WATER and WIND ENERGY TEST LABORATORY

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Number**  
DE-FOA-0003097

**Procurement Instrument Number**  
DE-EE0011686

**NEPA Control Number**  
GFO-0011686-001

**CID Number**  
GO11686

**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:**

**B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects**

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Rutgers University (RU) to develop an experimental setup that enables model-scale testing of certain types of hydrokinetic turbines (HKTs), develop a model-scale reference hydrokinetic turbine (rHKT), and the creation and dissemination of large raw and post-processed datasets.

Computer-based analyses and simulations as well as laboratory-scale tank testing would occur at RU (Piscataway, NJ). This would include updating existing laboratory experimental setups to integrate the water tank with the wind tunnel test section. Testing would encompass anchoring for HKTs, measurements of structural and flow dynamics, and automation and remote control of experiments. Results would be disseminated to University Marine Energy Research Community, as well as hosting some outreach events and webinars. All award activities would take place in purpose-built facilities.

The updating of the experimental setup had previously commenced through an existing ARPA-E project. The integration of the water tank with the wind tunnel test section is also funded externally by RU.

Existing institutional health and safety policies, including mandatory employee training, use of appropriate personal protective equipment, engineering controls and adherence to standard safety procedures would be followed. Compliance with federal, state, and local health and safety regulations would be maintained throughout the project to ensure the safety of all personnel. Additional policies and procedures would be implemented as new health and safety risks are identified.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

**For Categorical Exclusion Determinations:**

- The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.

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

#### NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office  
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 11/17/2025.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 Electronically  
Signed By: **Nicole Serio**  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/18/2025

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_