PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

RECIPIENT: Alaska Renewables LLC **STATE:** AK

PROJECT TITLE : Unlocking Geothermal Power on Alaska's Grid

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		GFO-UnlockAK-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:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring	Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools); (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes); (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

Rationale for determination:

In November 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Broad Agency Announcement indicating an interest in entering into one or multiple agreements with Partnership Intermediaries (PI) to work with DOE's Office of Technology Transfer, other DOE programs, and DOE National Laboratories and Facilities. Through one or more Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA), DOE would expand its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem and address gaps facing companies, organizations and communities seeking to engage with DOE and/or develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding through a Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with ATI/ConnectWerx to the Alaska Renewables LLC to perform geothermal resource characterization in the Healy Volcanic Region of Alaska. This award aims to address key data gaps, reduce financial risk for exploratory drilling, and accelerate geothermal in Healy, Alaska.

The proposed project would consist of six tasks divided into pre-drilling and drilling phases. This award would review Tasks 1, 2, and Subtask 3c, which would include pre-drilling tasks such as project management, permitting, and passive seismic sensing, specifically seismic sensory array implementation. Subtasks 3a, 3b, 3d, 3e, and Tasks 4, 5, and 6 are part of the drilling phase and would require more information and further NEPA review would be required.

For Tasks 1, 2, and Subtask 3c, 3-component seismometers would be placed during winter conditions which enable better transmission of seismic signals to the sensor. Each seismometer measures approximately 4.6 inches x 6.4 inches and contains a detachable spike that is 4.6 inches long to support installation into the ground. To install the sensor, snow would be removed from the installation location to expose bare ground, and the seismometer's spike would be driven into the ground such that the body of the instrument would sit above the ground surface.

Sensors would be deployed in approximately four linear arrays with approximately 1 km spacing between nodes across the Healy Volcanic Region The Healy Volcanic Region is located between the volcanic features of Buzzard Creek Maars, Jumbo Dome, and Sugar Loaf Mountain, and the sampling area would cover approximately 60 square kilometers. Additional seismic lines may be installed on subsequent deployments depending on initial results and data requirements. Once passive seismic sensing is completed, sensors would be removed.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) does not identify any threatened or endangered species, migratory bird species of conservation concern, or critical habitats. Additionally, equipment installations would be temporary, limited to standard types of minimally invasive surveying tools, and result in negligible ground disturbance. DOE has determined that no adverse impacts to species of concern are to be expected as a result of the proposed activities at this location.

Due to the temporary nature of the award activities and the fact that minimal ground disturbance would be caused, no effects would be expected to affect other resources of concern.

Hazards would include exposure to cold or inclement weather. Mitigation measures would include compliance with applicable occupational health and safety standards and the implementation of site-specific health and safety plans.

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 10CFR 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 conditional NEPA determination.

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

Pre-drilling passive sensing activities, including Tasks 1, 2, and Subtask 3c.

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

Drilling phase and active sensing activities, including Subtasks 3a, 3b, 3d, 3e, and Tasks 4, 5, and 6.

Notes:

Geothermal Technologies Program (GTO)
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 3/2/2026.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Nicole Serio Date: 3/3/2026

NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____

Field Office Manager