



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title:

Program or Field Office:

Location(s) (City/County/State):

Proposed Action Description:

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B to [10 CFR Part 1021](#), and also Section 5.4 (Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal) and Appendices B and C of [DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures](#) (June 30, 2025).

Requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures: (See full text in regulation and in Implementing Procedures)

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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. DOE or an applicant may modify the proposal to avoid reasonably foreseeable adverse significant effects such that the categorical exclusion would apply.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

[Note: For proposals that fit within the categorical exclusions listed in Appendix C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, see DOE's notice of adoption for the subject Appendix C categorical exclusion for additional considerations. DOE notices of adoption for other agency categorical exclusions may be found on [DOE's Section 109 webpage](#).]

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined:



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: University of Alaska, Fairbanks -- Material and Cost Efficient Modular Riverine Hydrokinetic Energy System

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Fairbanks, Nenana, Aniak, and Napaimute, Alaska; Bend, Oregon

Proposed Action Description:

THIRD AMENDED NEPA DETERMINATION: (See attached original, First, and Second Amended Determinations dated July 15, 2021, July 23, 2021, and September 20, 2023, respectively). This Third Amended Determination follows the approval of additional funding, extended period of performance, and additional project milestones to support the project team's small-scale research and development activities to continue testing and validation of their hydrokinetic turbine power generator. Specifically, the project team will (1) prepare the turbine, transmission, and energy storage system for a pilot deployment; (2) install and deploy the turbine in the Kuskokwim River for energy generation for 3 to 4 months; and (3) monitor the system, and collect riverine and fishery data from the deployment. If successful, the project will enable a proven system for low-cost river-driven hydraulic energy production.

Project activities will be conducted at existing facilities at the University Alaska, Fairbanks (Fairbanks and Nenana, Alaska), BladeRunner Energy, Inc. (Bend, Oregon) and the Native Village of Napaimute (Aniak and Napaimute, AK) designed for the proposed work. Project tasks continue to fit within the class of actions identified under the DOE Categorical Exclusion identified below and do not involve any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the project. This assessment was based on a review of the proposed scope of work and the potential environmental impact of the project. Project tasks will be conducted in accordance with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements. No modifications will be made to the existing facilities to accommodate the proposed work. The project team has not obtained all necessary permits for their field testing location in Napaimute, AK and is prohibited from commencing applicable work until permits are obtained. Per the terms of the award, a permits certification, and, if necessary, an amended NEPA Determination, are required prior to the conduct of applicable project work.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

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

B3.16 - Research activities in aquatic environments

B5.25 - Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects in aquatic environments

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **GEOFFREY GOODE** Digitally signed by GEOFFREY GOODE
Date: 2024.12.04 05:53:33 -05'00'

Date Determined:



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: University of Alaska, Fairbanks -- Material and Cost Efficient Modular Riverine Hydrokinetic Energy System

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Fairbanks and Nenana, Alaska; Bend, Oregon

Proposed Action Description:

SECOND AMENDED NEPA DETERMINATION: (See attached original and First Amended Determination dated July 15, 2021 and July 23, 2021 respectively). This Second Amended Determination follows the approval of a change in project scope, additional funding, and extended period of performance to support the project team's small-scale, research and development activities to continue development and testing of their hydrokinetic turbine power generator. Specifically, the project team will (1) fabricate a larger turbine design by increasing their 2.5 kilowatt (kW) concept system to a 5.5kW prototype system; (2) conduct testing of the larger turbine; and (3) apply test results to final turbine design. If successful, the project team will develop a proven system for low-cost river-driven hydraulic energy production.

Project activities will be conducted at existing facilities at the University Alaska, Fairbanks (Fairbanks and Nenana, Alaska) and BladeRunner Energy, Inc. (Bend, Oregon) designed for the proposed work. Project tasks continue to fit within the class of actions identified under the DOE Categorical Exclusion identified below and do not involve any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the project. This assessment was based on a review of the proposed scope of work and the potential environmental impact of the project. Project tasks will be conducted in accordance with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements. No modifications will be made to the existing facilities to accommodate the proposed work. The project team has certified they possess all necessary permits, authorizations and approvals to conduct the applicable project work referenced in the original Determination and additional activities covered by this determination.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination
- B3.6 - Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects
- B3.16 - Research activities in aquatic environments
- B5.25 - Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects in aquatic environments

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **GEOFFREY GOODE** Digitally signed by GEOFFREY GOODE
Date: 2023.09.20 17:37:44 -04'00'

Date Determined:



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Submarine Hydrokinetic and Riverine Kilo-Megawatt Systems SHARKS (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002334) & SHARKS SBIR/STTR (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002335) Programs

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): AK; CA; CO; GA; IL; MA; MD; ME; MI; NH; NJ; NM; NY; OR; PA; TN; TX; VA; WA; WI

Proposed Action Description:

AMENDED PROGRAMMATIC NEPA DETERMINATION (See the attached original Programmatic Determination, dated July 14, 2021). This Amended Determination follows ARPA-E's receipt of required information and certifications from two (2) additional Prime Recipients, SRI International (2334-1537) and Littoral Power Systems, Inc. (2335-1516) that were not covered under the original Programmatic Determination. Additionally, this determination follows ARPA-E's receipt of required permits from Prime Recipients, University of Alaska-Fairbanks (2334-1541) and Aquantis, Inc. (2334-1515). The SHARKS Program is composed of 11 small-scale research and development projects that will be conducted by universities, non-profit entities, for-profit entities, and federal laboratories. This Amended Determination, in addition to the original Programmatic Determination covers all 11 of the projects (listed in Attachment A). All 11 projects fit within the class of actions identified under the DOE Categorical Exclusion identified below and do not involve any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the projects. This assessment was based on a review of the proposed scope of work and the potential environmental impacts of each project. All project tasks will be conducted in accordance with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and Local regulatory requirements. Some Prime Recipients (See Attachment A) have not obtained all necessary permits and approvals applicable to proposed actions and are prohibited from commencing applicable project work before (1) obtaining the necessary permits and approvals and (2) providing written assurances to ARPA-E of the same.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination



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



B3.16 - Research activities in aquatic environments

B5.25 - Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects in aquatic environments

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **GEOFFREY GOODE** Digitally signed by GEOFFREY GOODE
Date: 2021.07.23 13:11:11 -04'00'

Date Determined:



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Submarine Hydrokinetic and Riverine Kilo-Megawatt Systems SHARKS (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002334) & SHARKS SBIR/STTR (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002335) Programs

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): AK; CA; CO; GA; IL; MA; MD; ME; MI; NH; NJ; NM; NY; OR; PA; TN; TX; VA; WA; WI

Proposed Action Description:

The SHARKS Program seeks to develop new technical pathways to design economically competitive Hydrokinetic Turbines (HKT) for tidal and riverine currents. SHARKS teams will (1) advance new holistic HKT designs to significantly reduce their levelized cost of energy (LCOE); (2) integrate control co-design (CCD), co-design (CD), and designing for operation and maintenance (DO) methodologies; and (3) minimize potential negative environmental effects while maximizing system reliability. If successful, SHARKS technologies will address industry-wide limitations to provide economical hydrokinetic power at micro-grid and utility-scale.

The SHARKS Program is composed of 11 small-scale research and development projects that will be conducted by universities, non-profit entities, for-profit entities, and federal laboratories. This Determination covers 9 of the 11 projects (listed in Attachment A). All 9 projects fit within the class of actions identified under the DOE Categorical Exclusion identified below and do not involve any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the projects. This assessment was based on a review of the proposed scope of work and the potential environmental impacts of each project. All project tasks will be conducted in accordance with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and Local regulatory requirements. Some Prime Recipients (See Attachment A) have not obtained all necessary permits and approvals applicable to proposed actions and are prohibited from commencing applicable project work before (1) obtaining the necessary permits and approvals and (2) providing written assurances to ARPA-F of the same

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination



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



B3.16 - Research activities in aquatic environments

B5.25 - Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects in aquatic environments

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **GEOFFREY GOODE** Digitally signed by GEOFFREY GOODE
Date: 2021.07.15 11:23:32 -04'00'

Date Determined:

Attachment A: Projects in the Submarine Hydrokinetic and Riverine Kilo-Megawatt Systems SHARKS (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002334) & SHARKS SBIR/STTR (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002335) Programs

Full Application Control Number	Lead Organization	Project Title	Categorical Exclusions	Permit Status
2334-1511	National Renewable Energy Lab	Marine Energy Generation and Load Optimized Design Of Novel-turbines (MEGALODON)	A9	Not Applicable
2334-1513	University of Michigan	RAFT: RECONFIGURABLE ARRAY OF HIGH-EFFICIENCY DUCTED TURBINES FOR HYDROKINETIC ENERGY HARVESTING	A9; B3.6	Not Applicable
2334-1515	Aquantis, Inc.	TIDAL POWER TUG	A9; B3.6; B3.16; B5.25	Not Applicable
2334-1521	Westergaard Solutions, Inc	HydroMINE: Simple, Modular and Scalable	A9; B3.6	Not Applicable
2334-1523	University of Washington	Confinement-exploiting Cross-flow Turbine Arrays	A9; B3.6	Not Applicable
2334-1536	University of Virginia	Bio-Inspired Renewable Energy (BIRE) for Highly-efficient Low-cost Riverine Hydrokinetics	A9; B3.6; B3.16; B5.25	Prime Recipient has not obtained all necessary permits and approvals applicable to proposed actions.
2334-1537	SRI International	MANTA: RELIABLE AND SAFE KITE ENERGY SYSTEM	A9; B3.6; B3.16; B5.25	Prime Recipient has not obtained all necessary permits and approvals applicable to proposed actions.
2334-1541	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Material and Cost Efficient Modular Riverine Hydrokinetic Energy System	A9; B3.6; B3.16; B5.25	Not Applicable
2335-1512	Emrgy, Inc.	Performance Enhancement of Hydrokinetic Arrays Using Reliable, Low-Cost Dynamic Components	A9; B3.6; B3.16; B5.25	Prime Recipient has not obtained all necessary permits and approvals applicable to proposed actions.
2335-1515	Ocean Renewable Power Company	Optimized Hydrokinetic Systems	A9; B3.6; B3.16; B5.25	Prime Recipient has not obtained all necessary permits and approvals applicable to proposed actions.

Attachment A: Projects in the Submarine Hydrokinetic and Riverine Kilo-Megawatt Systems SHARKS (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002334) & SHARKS SBIR/STTR (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002335) Programs

2335-1516	Littoral Power Systems, Inc.	Control Co-Design and Co-Optimization of a Transformational Cost-Efficient Hydrokinetic Energy Turbine System	A9; B3.6; B3.16; B5.25	Prime Recipient has not obtained all necessary permits and approvals applicable to proposed actions.
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