

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



RECIPIENT: University of Alaska Fairbanks

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE : DOE, WPTO

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0003097

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-EE0011695

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0011695-001

CID Number
GO11695

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 the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) to develop and administer courses, internships, and research projects in the field of marine energy. Project activities would consist of five ongoing Tasks that would include marine energy research projects on the UAF campus in Fairbanks, Alaska, and at the Tanana River Hydrokinetic Test Site (TRTS), located 55 miles west of Fairbanks, as well as the design and development of marine energy prototype projects.

This NEPA Determination (ND) considers classroom-based activities, administrative tasks, and indoor research and development in existing facilities at UAF and TRTS. However, specific project activities, e.g. research, laboratory work, prototype development, and testing at TRTS, are unknown at this time because the research projects would be proposed by the students participating in the program. Proposed research projects that would require any facility modifications, field work, ground disturbance, outdoor installations, or outdoor testing, including testing at TRTS, would require re-submission to DOE for additional NEPA review.

Project activities covered by this ND would occur in purpose-built facilities and would be consistent with their use. No new permits or facility modifications would be required. Potential hazards include typical hazards associated with electrical and mechanical work. Award recipients would adhere to established health and safety policies and procedures when performing project work, and would observe all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

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.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

Classroom-based activities, administrative tasks, and indoor research and development in existing facilities at UAF and TRTS.

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

Any facility modifications, field work, ground disturbance, outdoor installations, or outdoor testing.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Any proposed facility modifications, field work, ground disturbance, outdoor installations, or outdoor testing must be submitted to DOE for additional NEPA review.

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office
NEPA review completed by Andrew McClellan, 15 April 2026

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.

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:  Electronically Signed By: Nicole Serio Date: 4/16/2026
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