

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



RECIPIENT: WASTE NOFO Awardees (under the Alternative Fuels and Feedstocks Office) **STATE:** Mult

PROJECT TITLE : WASTE: Waste Analysis and Strategies for Transportation End-uses, All NOFO Activities

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0003072

Procurement Instrument Number

NEPA Control Number
GFO-WASTENOFO-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:

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) Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) is proposing to enter into multiple financial assistance agreements for projects selected under Topic Area 1 "Feasibility Study Development" of Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (DE-FOA-0003072). The selected Topic Area 1 projects would be focused on resource and energy recovery strategies associated with organic waste streams.

Project activities under Topic Area 1 would include desktop analyses, project management, dissemination of project findings, and experimental validation and testing activities at the National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR). No experimental studies would occur outside of controlled laboratory spaces or dedicated facilities operated by NLR.

No physical modifications, ground disturbance, or changes to the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would be performed. All activities would be performed under existing permits, licenses, and authorizations.

Any changes to the experimental validation and testing activities or location of those activities are [KK1.1]subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for federal funding unless and until the Contracting Officer provides written authorization on those additions or modifications.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

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 further 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:

- All Topic Area 1 awards administered by CMEI

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

- Topic Area 1 awards administered by offices other than CMEI
- Topic Area 2 awards

Notes:

Alternative Fuels and Feedstocks Office
NEPA review completed by Chris Akios, 7/6/2026

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: **Kristin Kerwin**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/6/2026

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: _____