

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



RECIPIENT: Enthalpion Energy LLC

STATE: OR

PROJECT TITLE: Regional Partnership for the Oregon Cascades and Great Basin: Broadband Regional Scale Magnetotelluric Data Acquisition, Modeling and Dissemination to Stimulate Geothermal Exploration and Development

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number

Procurement Instrument Number

NEPA Control Number

CID Number

GFO-Enthalpion-002

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:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Enthalpion Energy, LLC, for a geophysical survey involving the installation, operation, and subsequent removal of magnetotelluric monitoring stations.

DOE previously completed a NEPA Determination (ND) for planning phase activities (e.g., permitting and desktop research) that would not occur in the field (GFO-Enthalpion-001, signed 18 May 2026). This ND applies to additional planning phase activities that would occur in the field. This ND does not apply to any drilling activities or the installation of monitoring stations. Exact locations for these installations depend on information gathered during the planning phase and are unknown at this time. DOE will complete the NEPA review for installation activities when sufficient information is available.

Project activities would consist of data collection and well logging at an active drill site, Well Number 75-19, located at coordinates (43.655, -121.218), outside of La Pine, Oregon. Well boring is not funded as part of this proposed project, and is occurring regardless of DOE funding. NEPA review for well boring activities was completed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, on 26 September 2025. Well No. 75-19 is a confirmatory well, drilled vertically, to confirm geological model aspects. Data would be obtained through wireline logging at depths below well head between 4000 ft and 9000 ft, and by logging while drilling at depths between 9000 ft and 13000 ft.

Project activities would be passive in nature and not result in any new construction, ground disturbance, or building modifications. No new permits would be required. 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.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website identifies four species of concern (gray wolf, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee, monarch butterfly, and whitebark pine) that may occur in the proposed project area. There is no critical habitat in the project area. Project activities would occur at an active drill site and involve data collection within the well itself. DOE has determined no effect on special status species or on critical habitats.

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:

Data collection and well logging

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

Monitoring station installations, operation, or removal; drilling; or any ground disturbing activities

Notes:

Geothermal Technologies Office
NEPA review completed by Andrew McClellan, 27 July 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: _____



Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/31/2026

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: _____