



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

PND Number: NREL-PND-02

Title: Information Gathering, Analysis, and Dissemination, and Technical Advice and Assistance

This Programmatic NEPA Determination applies to information gathering, analysis, dissemination, and technical advice in support of Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) research operations. NREL frequently and routinely uses its capabilities and expertise to prepare credible, objective analyses that helps government policymakers, project developers and investors, utilities, and others, both at home and abroad, address the challenges of and understand the trade-offs posed by expanding renewables within today's energy system. These types of activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Computer modeling
2. Literature searches
3. Audits
4. Site visits
5. Document preparation/publication
6. Information dissemination
7. Feasibility studies (not including instrument deployments)
8. Technical exchange agreements with other countries (e.g., data analysis, feasibility of renewable energy)
9. Technical advice to international, national, state, and local organizations

Activities Not Covered:

The following are not considered information gathering, analysis, dissemination, and technical advice actions. These are specifically excluded from this determination and require additional NEPA review. These include but are not limited to:

1. Site characterization
2. Environmental monitoring,
3. New facilities or infrastructure
4. Installation and operation of field equipment
5. Facility expansions
6. Activities requiring permits or consultations with other government agencies
7. Installation of equipment in other countries
8. Deployment of instrumentation to collect data, such as met towers

Applicable Categorical Exclusions:

- A9 **Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination:** Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination; Information gathering; data analysis: document preparation; and information dissemination, but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.
- A11 **Technical advice and assistance to organizations:** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

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](#).

Rationale:

DOE has determined that the proposed actions are consistent with the actions contained in DOE Categorical Exclusions A9 and A11 that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.

There are no known extraordinary circumstances that would affect the significance of the environmental effects of the covered activities. The activities have not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Determination:

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: *Rou A. Gray*

Date: 03/02/2016

The DOE Golden Field Office will revisit this Programmatic NEPA Determination annually and update as warranted.

NEPA Compliance Officer:	Date Reviewed:	Updated version number or N/A for no revisions made: