

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: Tennessee Technological University

STATE: TN

PROJECT TITLE : Rural Reimagined: Building an EV Ecosystem and Green Economy for Transforming Lives in Economically Distressed Appalachia

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-000895

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-E2008802

NEPA Control Number
NETL-000882-010

CID Number
N7862

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, E, EN APPENDIX AND NUMBER:
Description:

All information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also E1.4 of appendix B to this appendix.)

E1.3 Small scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

Design, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for small-scale 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), but 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.

E1.5 Actions to conserve energy or water

(a) Actions to conserve energy or water: demonstration of energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as homes, schools, community, and businesses), organizations (such as utilities, and governments), such as audits, tests, and trials. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: modification (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors), organizational housing of thermal storage, placement of fans on hot water heaters, installation or improvement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, valves, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of energy-efficient systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency; energy efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fuel management); transportation management systems; and traffic signal control systems. (b) Energy, water, and other conservation, and alternative power source requirements: demonstration of energy efficient manufacturing, installation, or building practice; anti-air-pollution energy efficiency; and conservation research and development and demonstration programs. Covered actions include building retrofits or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, scientific, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include transportation, transportation, or proposed DOE regulations, except for those actions listed in the top of this appendix.

(b) Covered actions include retrofits that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not

1. Have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance);

2. Involve significant unexcused conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as new or limited rare materials);

3. Have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or

4. Have the potential to cause a significant decline in energy consumption in the state or region.

E1.2 Electric vehicle charging stations

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of electric vehicle charging stations, using commercially available technology, within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions are limited to areas where access and parking are in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

Some of the proposed locations for EV charger installations are at a listed or potentially eligible to be listed property on the National Register of Historic Places. For these locations, the recipient has stipulated they are following the requirements of the ACHP's Exemption From Historic Preservation Review for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment so the installations are exempt from the historic preservation review requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

This new CX determination has been signed due to the addition of project locations for additional EV charger installation activities.

Bramwell - 100 Simmons Ave. Bramwell, WV 24715
Waterford Grill - 220 Athens Boonesboro Rd Winchester, KY 40391
Grand Caverns Park - 5 Grand Caverns Dr. Groftown, VA 24441
Rockfish Valley CC - 190 Rockfish School Lane Albemarle, VA 22900
Norton (DA) - 815 Park Ave. SW Norton, VA 24273
City of Norton - 1147 Laurel Ave. SW Norton, VA 24273
Town of Clifton Forge - 547 Main St. Clifton Forge, VA 24422

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

A completed EQ is required for the TBD location sites/charging stations. A separate NEPA review is required for the TBD location sites. This CX covers all activities except the TBD location sites.

Notes:

This project number and recipient have previously received a CX on previous work. This new CX has been signed due to the recipient adding additional project locations. The control number reflects the prime recipient has received multiple NEPA determinations. As noted by the NEPA Control Number NETL-000882-010 this is the 10th CX associated with the initial award.

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) 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 Order; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA- or excluded petroleum and natural gas products that present 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 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. 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.

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: Cathy Strickland
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

7/2/2025

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

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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: