U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Project Title: (0290- 1649) – ABB Inc. - Superconducting Magnet Energy Storage System

Location: *- Multiple States - North Carolina, New York, Texas

Proposed Action or Project Description: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: ☒

Funding will support laboratory and bench scale research and development on a superconducting magnet energy storage system (SMES) capable of flexible and direct deployment in medium voltage distribution networks. The proposed work is consistent with the goal of GRIDS: development of new technologies to enable the widespread deployment of cost-effective, grid-scale energy storage.

Work consists entirely of RD&D to be completed at the ABB Inc., laboratory in Raleigh, NC, the SuperPower Inc., laboratory in Schenectady, NY, and the University of Houston laboratory in Houston, TX. The work performed will be limited to research, development, testing, and evaluation.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

X - B3.6 Siting/construction/operation/decommissioning of facilities for bench-scale research, conventional laboratory operations, small-scale research and development and pilot projects

*-For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR10 21 Click Here

This action would not: threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning 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: Matthew Dunne Date Determined: Aug 10, 2010

Comments: Webmaster:

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