



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: University of Cincinnati - Enhanced Air-Cooling System with Optimized Asynchronously-Cooled Thermal Energy Storage

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): See description below

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support small-scale, research and development activities to develop lab- and small prototype-scale ultra-enhanced air-cooled condenser (ACC), with novel swirl-producing and boundary-layer disrupting enhanced surface on the air-side of the condenser that substantially increase the heat transfer coefficients. This ACC will be coupled to a novel daytime peak-load shifting system that reduces the ambient air inlet temperature for air cooling, and which consists of a highly compact and enhanced air pre-cooler that transfers the heat load to a unique thermal energy storage. The proposed activities aim to shift daytime peak heat load to nighttime hours so as to significantly increase power-plant output, and the pre-cooling of inlet air to the ACC would further increase the effectiveness of the air-cooled condenser.

Project tasks will be conducted at existing facilities, and will be conducted in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local safety and environmental requirements.

Locations: Cincinnati, OH; Berkeley, CA; Los Angeles, CA; College Station, TX; Huntington Beach, CA; Taneytown, MD; Menlo Park, CA

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.6 - Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

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](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal 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 Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal 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.

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:

Date Determined: 07/17/2015