



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: University of Tennessee, Knoxville - A Smart and Flexible Microgrid with a Low-cost Scalable Open-source Controller

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Knoxville, TN; Chattanooga, TN; Austin, TX; Raleigh, NC

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support the project team's small-scale, research and development activities to develop an open source microgrid controller to accommodate dynamic changes in microgrid boundaries based on the current status of power availability and thereby dynamic topology management at the grid distribution level. Specifically, the project team will: (1) design the microgrid in a community power system; (2) design open-source microgrid controller based on industrial standards; and (3) testing the microgrid system and controller in the field.

Project tasks will be conducted on a small-scale basis in dedicated laboratory, testing, and fabrication and research facilities at Chattanooga Electric Power Board (Chattanooga, TN); National Instruments (Austin, TX); Electric Power Research Institute (Chattanooga, TN); Green Energy Corp (Raleigh, NC); and Tennessee Valley Authority (Knoxville, TN). The project team will comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations and incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices in all project activities. Minor modifications will be made to existing facilities at the Chattanooga Electric Power Board location to accommodate the proposed work. Approximately 4'x7' of previously-disturbed and developed ground will be disturbed to install a storage unit for the battery-based energy storage system. Prime Recipient University of Tennessee, Knoxville is required, under the terms of its ARPA-E Cooperative Agreement, to secure all necessary permits and authorizations prior to conducting facility modification and to provide ARPA-E with written assurances of acquiring such permits.

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.

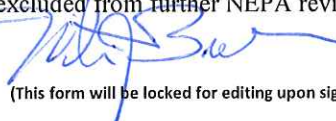
To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (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:


(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)

Date Determined: 03/24/2016