

PMC-EF2a

(2.01.02)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: Plug Power Inc

STATE: NY

PROJECT TITLE : Recovery Act: Research, Development, and Demonstration of Fuel Cell Technologies for Automotive, Stationary, and Portable Power Applications (7A)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0000488	GFO-0000488-002	GO488

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

A9 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 B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects

Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be 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.

Rational for determination:

The objective for this Plug Power Project is to deploy and test hybrid hydrogen / LPG or natural gas Emergency Backup Power Systems. Twenty units would be installed at two different federal facilities (10 per facility) with each facility responsible for completing a NEPA evaluation factoring in site specific plans and detailed information prior to installation activities. Tasks 1 through 4 and Task 8 for all sites were previously approved by GFO-09-262 on August 31, 2009 with CX A9 and B3.6. GFO-09-262 required that no fuel cell power plants would be deployed until site specific plans, detailed information, and a site specific NEPA evaluation were completed for installation at each of the federal facilities. All required information was submitted for installation at Warner Robins Air Force Base (WRAFB) in Georgia and DOE approved that installation by GFO-0000488-001 on June 15, 2011 with CX A9 and B5.1.

All of the required information has been submitted for the remaining 10 units to be installed at Fort Irwin in California and a site specific NEPA evaluation was completed by the Department of Defense with a resulting Categorical Exclusion for the installation of the units.

This DOE NEPA determination is specific to the proposed funding of Tasks 5 through 7 for only the 10 units to be installed at Fort Irwin. All other tasks and the installation at WRAFB remain covered by the previous two DOE NEPA determinations (GFO-09-262 and GFO-0000488-001).

Tasks under this project include:

- Task 1: Cost Analysis and Commercialization Study
- Task 2: Planning Site Applications Engineering
- Task 3: Engineering Development
- Task 4: System Builds and Factory Testing
- Task 5: Site Preparations, Installation and Commissioning
- Task 6: Fleet Operations, Managed Services
- Task 7: Project Closeout
- Task 8: Project Management

The amount of funds associated with the 10 units to be installed at the Fort Irwin site is approximately \$500,000.

*Hydrogen and LPG or Natural Gas will be used as a fuel in this project. Fuels used will be used, stored and handled in accordance with the Company's Environmental Health and Safety policy and with Federal, State and local regulations. Any non-used fuel will be collected, stored and disposed of in accordance with the Company's Environmental Health and Safety policy and with Federal, State and local regulations.

*Any liquid effluent is water byproduct generated from the fuel cell system operation and is contained in the system and consumed by the system.

*A desulphurization material will be used in this project. Any waste generated from the project will be collected, stored and disposed of in accordance with Plug Power's Environmental Health and Safety policy and with Federal, State and local regulations.

The remaining tasks of this project are composed of information gathering, analysis, dissemination; and small scale renewable energy research and development; therefore the DOE has categorized this proposal into Categorical Exclusions A9 and B5.15.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

EF2a prepared by Casey Strickland

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/28/2012

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____
Field Office Manager

Date: _____