

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



**RECIPIENT:** [Ricardo, Inc.](#)

**STATE:** [MI](#)

**PROJECT TITLE :** [Administration of the Wave Energy Converter \(WEC\) Prize](#)

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
<a href="#">DE-FOA-0000979</a>	<a href="#">DE-EE0006738</a>	<a href="#">GFO-0006738-005</a>	<a href="#">GO6738</a>

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:

<b><a href="#">B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects</a></b>	<a href="#">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.</a>
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**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Ricardo, Inc. for the administration of the Wave Energy Converter (WEC) Prize Challenge. The goals of the WEC Prize Challenge are to attract innovative ideas from developers new to the industry and next generation ideas from existing developers by offering a monetary prize purse and providing an opportunity for tank testing and evaluation of scaled WEC prototypes.

The project plan has been broken down into five (5) phases:

Phase 1: Competition Planning Stage  
Phase 2: Competition Design Stage  
Phase 3: Competition Build Stage  
Phase 4: Competition Test and Evaluation Stage  
Phase 5: Post-Competition Publicity & Wrap-up

This award previously received four NEPA determinations (GFO-0006738-001, CX-A9, and CX-B3.6, 9/05/2014; GFO-0006738-002, CX-A9 and CX-B3.6, 6/3/2015; GFO-0006738-003, CX-A9 and CX-B3.6, 9/8/2015; GFO-0006738-004, CX-A9, CX-B3.6, and CX-B2.4) for activities associated with Phases 1-4 and Phase 5 excluding Task 49. These allowed activities included prize development (rules and process), prize promotion and communication, competition publicity and evaluation, administrative implementation and oversight of the competition stages (design, build, test & evaluation), management of the "seed" funding and monetary prize awards, establishing sub-contracts with wave tank testing facilities across the country, and design, fabrication and testing of 1/50th scale and 1/20th scale models of various iterations of WEC technology. The purpose of this NEPA review is to evaluate activities associated with Task 49 as described in the Statement of Project Objectives.

The proposed activities relevant to this review would include the hosting of a WEC Prize Award Event at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Carderock, MD., in November of 2016. This event would showcase finalists and winners and their technologies; showcase DOE's efforts to incentivize innovation in WEC technology; showcase the Navy's support for wave energy; and engage stakeholders and the public. Teams would set up displays in the Carderock auditorium where they would interact with attendees to explain and showcase their technologies. This would be followed by a technical review. Finally, attendees would receive a demonstration of the winning team's WEC device at the MASK basin facility. Use of the MASK basin facility itself and the placing of WEC devices in the test tank at that facility were approved in a previous NEPA review (GFO-0006738-001, CX-A9, and CX-B3.6, 9/05/2014).

Based on the information above, DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusion B5.15 "Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects" and is therefore categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

#### NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Water Power Program

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord, 02/04/2016

#### SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 Electronically Signed By: **Kristin Kerwin**  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/8/2016

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_