



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: (0473-1601) Sandia National Laboratories - Improved Power System Operations Using Advanced Stochastic Optimization

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): New Mexico, Iowa, Massachusetts, Washington, and California

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support development of an integrated probabilistic decision-making software that can account for uncertain conditions that affect renewable energy sources to ensure reliable and efficient use of power system assets and enforce AC power flow constraints.

Proposed work consists of (1) developing a two-stage optimized algorithm for the stochastic unit commitment and economic dispatch and pricing formulation; (2) developing a linearized AC formulation; (3) developing and incorporating enhanced security constraints into the software; and (4) testing the software using a virtual test bed to simulate decision-making scenarios on realistic retail and wholesale power systems and smartgrids; and (5) developing an optimized configuration of the software that will function efficiently and effectively in real-world applications. Project work will take place at Sandia National Laboratories (Albuquerque, NM), Iowa State University (Ames, IA), ISO New England (Holyoke, MA), Alstom Grid (Redmond, WA), and University of California (Davis, CA).

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

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: 11/18/2011