



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

PND Number: NREL-PND-06

Title: Site Characterization, Sampling, and Research Activities at Existing, Offsite Structures

The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) frequently and routinely collaborates, partners, and provides funding to others that have specialized expertise, capabilities, facilities, and capacity to further the laboratory's research operations. The proposed actions comprise site characterization of future research sites; deployment of sampling devices on existing structures interior or exterior to buildings, on existing meteorological towers, PV arrays, wind turbines, related structures, or vehicles to investigate site characteristics, potential resources, potential energy savings, or on the ground where no earth disturbance is required; and deployment of test articles in a non-laboratory environment for demonstration or certification purposes. These activities could be indoors or outdoors and could occur on existing, offsite structures or locations. These types of activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Site characterization activities
2. Environmental monitoring
3. Natural resource measurement activities
4. Use of monitoring devices for data collection
5. Research object certification and verification testing
6. Demonstration of potential energy savings or promotion of energy efficiency

Activities Not Covered:

The following are not considered site characterization, sampling, or research activities. These activities are specifically excluded from this determination and require additional NEPA review. These include but are not limited to:

1. Installation of met towers, wind turbines, or solar array installations
2. Ground-disturbing activities
3. Activities or installations where a federal, state, or local permit is required
4. Activities that would disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, such as those at brownfield sites
5. Activities that would disturb sensitive resources, such as use of devices that emit sound into the environment
6. Activities that would not be in accordance with local land use or zoning requirements
7. Activities that would require the development of a road to access the site or existing structures.



Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.7, B1.31, B2.2, B2.4, B3.1, B3.6, B3.8, B5.1.

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.

Rationale:

DOE has determined that the proposed actions are consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions listed above and meet the conditions listed in DOE 10 CFR Part 1021 Implementing Procedures Appendix B. These actions do not have a significant effect on the human environment, nor do they exhibit known extraordinary circumstances that would affect the significance of the environmental effect of these covered activities. The activities have not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Determination:

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:

The DOE Golden Field Office will revisit this Programatic NEPA Determination annually and update as warranted.

NEPA Compliance Officer:	Date Reviewed:	Updated version number or N/A for no revision made: