



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899

May 9, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

From: Michael Blackmon  
NEPA Coordinator  
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Subject: NEPA Determination

Project: Addition to the University of Maine's Composites Center for the  
Green Engineering and Materials Research Factory of the Future

Location: University of Maine  
Orono, Maine 04469-5765

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and associated implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) require that all major federal actions be reviewed with respect to their environmental consequences. The Green Engineering and Materials Research Factory of the Future has been selected for a federal funding grant. Consequently, NEPA and the associated implementing regulations apply to this project.

This memorandum summarizes the review of the Green Engineering and Materials Research Factory of the Future Project, and the determination that this project will require the preparation of an environmental assessment to comply with NEPA.

**Basis for Determination**

Based on the following considerations, an environmental assessment is determined to be the appropriate level of review for this project:

1. The overall size and cost of the project: 78,000 square feet and \$47.8 million.
2. The project site is located within a designated coastal zone, and freshwater wetlands have been delineated on the project site.
3. Endangered species habitats range onto the project site; however, no significant impacts to endangered species are anticipated.
4. Permits that remain to be obtained and associated mitigation measures to be identified include:
  - a. Wetlands Alteration Permit – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - b. Natural Resources Protection Wetland Impact – State of Maine
  - c. Site Location Development Permit - State of Maine
  - d. Construction General Permit - State of Maine
  - e. Stormwater Permit - State of Maine
5. Coordination and notices required/recommended:
  - a. Public notice of application for Site Location Development Permit and Natural Resources Protection Wetland Impact Permit
  - b. General coordination with local municipality
  - c. Maine Natural Areas Program,
  - d. Maine Department of Marine Resources
  - e. Maine Department of Environmental Protection

An environmental assessment will provide for a consolidated review of the environmental impacts of this project and the proposed mitigation measures.

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Michael Blackmon  
NIST NEPA Coordinator

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Date

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R.C. Vaughn  
NIST Chief Facilities Management Officer

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Date