

To: Office of Planning and Research
 PO Box 3044
 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
 1516 Ninth Street, MS-48
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: e-Zinc Inc.

Project Title: Commercialization of Lowest-Cost, Long Duration Energy Storage Systems (SCH#2022080145) Amended

Project Location – Specific: Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, Miramar Way, San Diego, CA 92145 (New)

Project Location – City: San Diego **Project Location – County:** San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will demonstrate a long-duration energy storage system by testing and validating e-Zinc battery technology at the MCAS Miramar RICU facility in San Diego County. The zinc energy storage system will be located on an already-developed testing bed with the necessary concrete pads and electrical hookups to initiate testing. The zinc battery cells will be installed in a shipping container with a total footprint of around 160 square feet. This Agreement will result in the ratepayer benefits of greater electricity reliability, lower costs, and increased safety by demonstrating a novel long-duration energy storage technology that could offer backup power with daily cycling at a more affordable cost, and with no risk of thermal runaway.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: e-Zinc Inc.

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number
Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15301 and 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use at the time of the lead agency’s determination, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project will consist of the installation, connection, and demonstration of a modular zinc long-duration energy storage technology at an existing military facility. Minor alteration of existing facilities and mechanical equipment in the form of reconfiguration of existing electrical infrastructure will take place before the location of the e-Zinc shipping container energy storage unit is brought into the existing facilities. Additional minor alterations to topographical features include minor grading and/or trenching for concrete pads. This project will result in negligible or no expansion of use beyond that already existing and is also subject to a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusion related to existing federal facilities. Therefore, the project falls within section 15301 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15303 provides that projects which consist of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure, are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. The project consists of installing a zinc long-duration energy storage system with a footprint of around 160 square feet, to a preexisting microgrid infrastructure at an existing military facility. This will require minor alterations to the existing electrical infrastructure of the microgrid infrastructure to connect the e-Zinc shipping container energy storage unit which is replacing an existing storage container of the same size. Therefore, the proposed project falls within section 15303 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not involve unusual circumstances that might have a significant effect on the environment; will not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; the project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5; and the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project, and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Bryan Lee **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-461-5130

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ **Title:** _____

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____