

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: City of Houston

STATE: TX

**PROJECT TITLE :** CITY OF HOUSTON, TX ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0000013			0

**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:

- B5.1** Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.
- A9** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.
- A11** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

## Rational for determination:

The City of Houston, TX would use DOE funds for the following activities which are bounded by the signed SOW and are therefore categorically excluded under NEPA:

Activity 1: Enhancing the City of Houston's Building Retrofit Program (with the exception: sub-activity Cool Roof addition)

Activity 2: The 5-Star Energy Program for energy Efficient and Affordable Homes for Low Income Buyers (Financial Incentive Program)

This NEPA determination is limited to those activities described within the City of Houston's EF-1 and corresponding SOW which include: replacement of chillers, air handling units, addition of building and lighting controls, replacement of lighting fixtures, and the 5-Star homes financial incentive program. Any additional activities not listed on the EF-1 will require a separate NEPA determination review.

The following sub-activity falls outside the bounds of the signed SOW, but qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NEPA:

Retrofit sub-activity, Cool Roof additions, which include updating of roofing on 2 existing facilities in North Forest ISD with energy efficient cool roof technology. This activity is categorically excluded under NEPA under CX number B5.1.

Prior to the expenditure of Federal funds to implement the addition of Cool Roof additions under Activity 1, the City of Houston, the RECIPIENT has the affirmative responsibility to ensure that it has a waste management plan addressing waste generated by their proposed actions. The plan will describe the plan to dispose of any sanitary or hazardous waste, e.g. construction and demolition debris, old light bulbs, lead ballasts, piping, roofing materials, discarded equipment, debris, asbestos, etc. generated as a result of the proposed project. The recipient must ensure that it will comply with all federal, state and local regulations for waste disposal.

**NHPA Requirements**

Prior to the expenditure of Federal funds to implement the addition of Cool Roof additions under Activity 1, the City of Houston, the RECIPIENT has the affirmative responsibility to ensure compliance with Sec. 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The RECIPIENT must contact the State Historic Preservation Officer in regards to the

potentially historic buildings listed above. Supporting document will be reviewed by the DOE as part of its post-award monitoring.

Any projects submitted for EECBG funding that fall outside the bounds of the signed SOW, other than the cool roof sub-activity discussed above, will require a separate NEPA determination review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

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

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

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4/15/10

**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: \_\_\_\_\_