

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**STATE:** TX**PROJECT
TITLE :** ARRA SEP Lampasas Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-EE0000116	EE0000116		EE116

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:

- A11** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.
- 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.

Rational for determination:

The State of Texas will provide \$2,000,000 of Recovery Act funds to the City of Lampasas to construct and install a solar photovoltaic generation plant at a former landfill site located between Highway 190 and Highway 183 approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Lampasas. The landfill was closed in 1988. The post closure report was finalized in 1993.

The 309kw, 1,472 panel solar plant is projected to produce about 433,000kwh of electric power that will displace about 0.5% of the city's electricity use and approximately 260 metric tons per year of CO2 greenhouse gas emissions. The site has significant buffer zones to the nearest residents and neighborhoods, no conflicting uses, and close proximity to a new power distribution line. The total landfill area is 186 acres of which 52 acres are being used for sludge disposal. Vegetation of the site includes oak, hackberry, and second growth scrubs, which will be cleared for installation of the system. The area is accessible via a partially paved road, which will be widened and improved in support of the project.

The project will include installation of the PV modules, mounting system, inverter, transformer, switchboard, water supply for PV washdown, lighting, and security system. Some earthwork is expected, but breach of the landfill cover will be avoided. The construction contract requires system installation in compliance with NEC-2008 and in accordance with recommended practices outlined in SAND96-2797. Outdoor installations will comply with ANSI C2, National Electrical Safety Code.

This project is far along in the planning stages but still requires significant engineering design and site characterization work before a NEPA determination can be made. Accordingly, the project is to be phased. Phase 1 is to complete the engineering design, site characterization, permitting, and environmental information needed for DOE to make an informed NEPA determination. Phase 2 is to prepare the site, construct, and install the solar system based on the information collected in the Phase 1 effort.

Based on information provided by the State and recipient, the project requires further definition before a final NEPA determination can be made. Accordingly, the project is to be phased. Phase 1 is to finalize the engineering, site characterization, permitting, and environmental analyses required for DOE to make a NEPA determination. The phase 1 effort is categorically excluded via A9 and A11. The Phase 2 effort will follow through with the site preparation, construction, and installation of the solar system based on the information collected in Phase 1. The Phase 2 effort may require the preparation of an Environmental Assessment should the information collected in Phase 1 so dictate.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon

the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Site preparation, construction, and installation of the solar system until completion of the Phase 1 effort and a final NEPA determination has been made based on the Phase 1 information.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Conducting the engineering, site characterization, permitting, and environmental analyses required to prepare final project plans.

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

Provide final site characterization, engineering and project plans, and related environmental analyses to the DOE project officer and NEPA compliance officer for review. You may not proceed with the Phase 2 activities until a final NEPA determination has been made.

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is \$2,000,000. In view of the phased approach, it is recommended that \$200,000 be released to complete the Phase 1 effort. The remaining \$1,800,000 should be withheld pending receipt of the Phase 1 information and NEPA review of that information.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 5/27/10
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager