

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: Nevada State Office of Energy

STATE: NV

PROJECT TITLE : Renewabale Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Program - Desert Hills

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE-0000084	GFO-10-145-006	EE84

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.

Rational for determination:

The State of Nevada will provide \$1,200,000 in Recovery Act SEP funds to Desert Hills Dairy (Desert Hills) to recover a portion of the costs associated with the installation of an anaerobic manure digester; the construction of a building to house two generators, a separator, and a bottling facility; and construction of a greenhouse. Desert Hills is located at 350 Campbell Lane, Yerington, NV.

Recovery Act funds will off-set costs associated with:

- A. Engineering drawings
- B. Construction drawings
- C. Permit applications
 - Conditional Use Permit – Lyon County
 - Building Permit
 - Pressure Vessel Permits – State of Nevada
 - Utility Environmental Rights Permit – NPUC*

*Note: Since this project is constructed on agricultural land, a surface disturbance permit is exempted.

D. Preliminary construction which includes:

- Finalizing the architectural design
- Completing the permitting process
- Excavating for the digester pit
- Construction of the initial shell
- Building pads for the utility shed (which will house the generators, separators, and bottling facility) and greenhouse

E) Administrative salaries

The digester is to measure approximately 140ft x 220ft with a depth of 16 feet. The building for the generators, separator, and bottling facility will be 100ft x 400ft. The two 600kW generators installed in the building will convert digester-generated methane gas to electricity. Desert Hills expects to use most of the power generated and to sell the excess electricity to NV Energy. The greenhouse will be 100ft x 300ft and use waste carbon dioxide from the digester. The digester and building will occupy a parcel of land that is currently growing alfalfa. The land is owned by Dairy Hills. No permits are needed for ground disturbing activities as the project will be constructed on agricultural land which is exempt.

Dairy Hills submitted a loan application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the proposed work. USDA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), including the DOE-funded portion of the project. The EA addressed ground disturbance, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, air quality, water quality, waste stream management, traffic disturbance, permits, noise, and visual resources. Having received no negative comments

through the agency review process, USDA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in July 2010. DOE has reviewed the USDA EA and concurs with its findings.

In view of the USDA Environmental Assessment (EA), Desert Hills' positive response to the USDA EA mitigation actions, Desert Hills' positive response to Lyon County's and State of Nevada's permit requirements, and Desert Hills' response to DOE inquiries, DOE has determined that the work outlined will present no significant impact to human health and/or environment and is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1.

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:

The recipient is to provide the DOE Project Officer with copies of the required local, state, and federal permits before commencing operations.

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is \$1,200,000. Absent a significant change in the scope of this effort, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/30/10

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: _____

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: California Energy Commission

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : SEP-ARRA: Energy Innovations Expansion of Solar Module Production Lines

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052			EE221

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.

Rational for determination:

The State of California will provide \$3,493,797 in Recovery Act funds to Energy Innovations, Inc. for the purchase of equipment in support of the company's plans to expand its solar PV manufacturing capabilities. Energy Innovations is located at 14100 Danielson Road, Poway, CA 92064.

Recovery Act funds will be used to purchase 64 different items (312 items in total) in support of the company's plans to build four (4) new production lines capable of producing approximately 45,000 solar modules. General equipment purchases include robotic assembly equipment, automated wire bonding equipment, curing ovens, material movement conveyors and carts, bar coding equipment, test stations, various custom tools mounted to the equipment, and miscellaneous safety devices and equipment. Much of the equipment allows for automated operation of the production line and precision assembly and manufacturing.

The equipment purchases will not require Energy Innovations to expand the footprint of the building nor require significant construction of the existing building. The equipment and machinery will be installed in the current facility. The new capacity is within existing operations permits for the company; no new or modified permits are required. The proposed work and resulting production capability will not generate new waste streams.

In view of the information provided by the State and recipient, the work proposed is a retooling effort that will not increase the footprint of the facility and will be confined within the existing building. DOE has determined that the work outlined will present no significant impact to human health and/or environment and is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

According to the DOE project officer, funding for this project is \$3,493,797. Absent a significant change in the scope of this effort, a change in funding will not affect my determination.