

PMC-EF2a

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



(2010)

RECIPIENT:Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Baseload Electricity Solar Tower

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000104	DE-EE0003594	GFO-10-522	GO3594

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:

- B3.6** Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).
- 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:

Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne propose to use federal funding to research and develop a lower cost, operating, and maintenance concentrating solar power tower facility. This project will take place at the National Solar Thermal Testing Facility at the Sandia National Laboratory. The Balance of Power Plant will be tested at the Argonne National Laboratory.

Phase 1 includes feasibility studies for system integration, receiver, heliostat, thermal storage, and balance of power plant. At the conclusion of phase 1 a report will outline a go forward plan. Phase 2 includes design and prototype development to include system integration, receiver, heliostat, thermal storage, and balance of power plant concepts; as well as cost estimates, manufacturability assessments, and a phase 2 final report with a go forward plan.

The applicant has submitted an R & D questionnaire that thoroughly addresses chemical and safety handling protocols for all laboratory work in this project.

This project is comprised of conventional laboratory research and development as well as information gathering and feasibility studies; therefore a CX A9 & B3.6 will apply.

Both Sandia National Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory may require additional NEPA review for the proposed activities. This NEPA determination applies to the DOE funding action only and does not supersede any additional NEPA requirements at either National Lab.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 9/9/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kristin Kerwin Date: 9/10/2010
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