

PMC-EF2a

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



RECIPIENT: Louisiana DNR -- UL-L Solar Thermal Power Plant Installation # 2

STATE: LA

PROJECT TITLE : Recovery Act -- State Energy Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	EE0000124	GFO-0000124-015	EE124

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 Louisiana DNR proposes to use federal funds to install, produce electric power, and evaluate for commercial viability a 20 kW solar thermal power plant in Crowley, Louisiana. This project will entail partnerships between 4 entities: University of Louisiana Lafayette for lead and plant operation, CLECO Power Corp. for co-lead and electric grid space, City of St. Martinville for the assessment of concept to utilize solar energy to reduce power costs, and Poche` Prouet and Associates for engineering.

This project will include the installation of a solar collector field that will consist of 97 reflective parabolic troughs on 0.86 acres of land, an energy storage system, a power block, and control system. Installation of the energy storage system will include a heat exchanger, evaporator, 2 storage tanks, and an expansion tank. Piping between the storage system and the collector field will route a heat transfer fluid to the evaporator and power block. The power block will utilize and organic refrigerant for the conversion of thermal energy to mechanical energy. This project, as designed, will also create or retain 76.7 jobs.

This project will be constructed on a 5 acre parcel of land located between Capitol Avenue and Range Rd, with a southern border being Maraist Rd. and the northern border 440 feet north of Maraist Rd. The land used for this project is currently owned by the University of Louisiana Lafayette and was once used as agricultural land but has since been left to fallow.

Upon review of the United States Fish and Wildlife website for Endangered Species, 2 species are known to occur in county of Acadia of which the project is located. The American black bear is known to occur in the area by range as well as the Arctic peregrine Falcon, which has as of 10/05/1994 been delisted from the list of threatened and endangered species and listed as recovered.

The current land-use within the proposed project site has been use for agricultural purposes and is currently zoned as industrial. This soil has been previously disturbed for row crops by mechanical means and thusly degrades the historic and cultural artifacts integrity of the project site. Moreover, the project is located approximately 250 feet away from any wetland or water source, thus the project is anticipated to have no impacts to wetlands or navigable waters.

The sub-recipients, CLECO & Poche` Prouet and Associates, are in the process of obtaining all necessary licenses and permits for the implementation of this project.

This project is comprised of installation of a small pilot solar thermal power plant to be used for power production and commercial viability; therefore this project is categorically excluded as CX B5.1, actions to conserve energy.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 10/20/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

10/20/10

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: _____