

PMC-EF2a

(30402)

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



RECIPIENT: Oregon Dept of Transportation

STATE: OR

PROJECT TITLE : Oregon Solar Highway

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0000308	GFO-0000308-001	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:

- 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.
- B3.1** Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

## Rational for determination:

The Oregon Department of Transportation proposes to use federal funding to identify "shovel-ready" sites for installation of solar infrastructure along the highways. The solar infrastructure would be used to power signage and warning lights. Project funds (federal and cost-share) would be used to complete site-specific feasibility studies, development of sustainability concepts, public outreach and education, and identifying and obtaining required permits. Project funds will not be used to complete final design, purchase equipment, or for the installation of solar infrastructure.

The scope of the feasibility studies includes environmental baseline studies such as threatened and endangered species and biological surveys, wetlands delineations, stormwater compliance, tree mitigation and subsurface soil stability investigations. Environmental baselining studies would be completed within existing road right-of-ways which have been previously disturbed for construction of the road and drainage ditches.

Feasibility studies have begun at two sites: West Linn and Baldock. Project funds would be used to pay for feasibility studies but not for equipment, site preparation or installation of solar infrastructure.

All sites selected for installation will be subject to additional NEPA review by the Federal Highway Administration. This NEPA determination does not apply to final design, equipment, site preparation or installation of solar infrastructure.

This project entails information gathering, public outreach and education, feasibility studies, and onsite monitoring of environmental parameters; therefore a CX A9 & B3.1 apply.

**NEPA PROVISION**

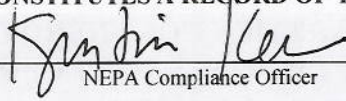
DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 4/14/2011

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:   
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 5/24/2011

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