

PMC-EF2a

(2011.02)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves-Port of Galveston**STATE:** TX**PROJECT TITLE :** Port of Galveston Solar Energy Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
N/A	DE-EE0003177	GFO-0003177-001	EE3177

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:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to the Port of Galveston, to develop a study that would evaluate the performance characteristics of existing solar technologies in a maritime environment. In addition to the solar technology test area, the proposed project would provide the Port of Galveston with an educational kiosk located inside a cruise terminal.

The proposed project would design, procure, setup up and install an outdoor test area (250 to 300 sq. ft.) with two sets of five different types of modules (including crystalline silicon, polycrystalline silicon, amorphous silicon, thin film cadmium telluride (CdTe) and copper indium gallium selenide (CIGS)). One set would include antireflective (AR) coatings and the other set would not. Materials would include solar cells/panels, sensors, installation or other mounting equipment, battery, transmitters, receivers and other supplies needed to complete the test area set up. The test beds would be temporary installations; however, test beds may remain after the grant to continue research and data collection.

The outdoor solar technology test area would be installed on the roof of the Port of Galveston Police Department located at 2803 Wharf Road, Galveston, TX 77550. The property is centrally located on port property behind the secure perimeter. The building is a 2,500 sq. ft., one story masonry building. The roof is modified bitumen over rigid board. According to local resources, the building was constructed in 2005; therefore, DOE has determined that the building does not meet the eligibility requirement for National Register of Historic Places.

The Port of Galveston has identified two partners: 1) the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) and 2) the University of Houston (UH). Only documentation and reporting would take place at the HARC facility. The development and application of the AR coating materials as well as the modeling work would take place at the UH.

The UH Center for Advanced Materials (CAM) is located at the Science and Research One building at 4800 Calhoun Road, Houston, TX 77004. An R&D questionnaire was completed, which addresses the protocols in place regarding laboratory safety, risk management, chemical handling and waste disposal. A Safety Guidelines and Standards Manual is in place at the CAM. The CAM laboratory manager monitors the work areas. Safety equipment at the CAM laboratories includes fume hoods and toxic gas sensors. A roof mounted toxic gas scrubber is in use, and all safety equipment for toxic gas usage is in place.

The educational kiosk would be placed at the Port of Galveston in a high traffic area inside one of the cruise terminals. This kiosk would display real-time data collected from the PV test beds and be used to educate the community about the research and development efforts related to this project.

The Port of Galveston submitted information to the Texas General Land Office (GLO), Coastal Resources Division for a Coastal Zone Management consistency certification. In an email dated February 12, 2010, Ms. Tammy Brooks with the GLO stated that the GLO has no concerns with the proposed project.

In view of the information provided by the recipient, DOE has determined that the impacts related to the proposed project are anticipated to have negligible effects on the human and natural environment. The proposed project is consistent with actions outlined in CX A9 (information gathering) and B3.1 (site characterization and environmental monitoring) and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Cristina Tyler 6.2.2011

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 6/15/2011
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