

PMC-EF2a

(2010)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Georgia Tech Applied Research Corporation**STATE:** GA**PROJECT TITLE :** Solar, Install, Mount, Production, Labor, Equipment (SIMPLE BoS)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000493	DE-EE0005441	GFO-0005441-002	GO5441

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:

B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects

Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Georgia Tech Applied Research Corporation (GTARC) to conduct pre-commercial development and deployment activities for a solar photovoltaic (PV) balance of system (BOS) design. DOE funding would be used to design, fabricate and test a prototype that would reduce the racking and mounting hardware costs.

DOE made a previous NEPA determination, GFO-0005441-001 (CX A9, B3.6, 11/9/2011), for the design, fabrication and testing of the prototype solar PV BOS design. DOE restricted installation and demonstration activities.

This NEPA determination applies to Budget Period 2 (BP2). In BP2, GTARC would develop and manufacture the pre-commercial design to 60% readiness and conduct laboratory and field tests through installation of demonstration systems.

Development and deployment activities would be conducted at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) located at 640 Strong Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30318. Prototype panels and racking would be constructed and housed indoors. No facilities would be modified. GTARC would test PV arrays of 5kW or less and have an approximate dimension of less than 500 square feet. The maximum number of all deployed units would be 200 panels of 38 kW. The university has completed an R&D questionnaire addressing the protocols in place for laboratory safety, risk management, chemical handling and waste disposal. The facility complies with standard laboratory safety procedures and labs are inspected by university staff and safety personnel. The university operates under all applicable permits to conduct research.

At this time, outdoor deployment and Budget Period 3 (BP3) have not been defined to the extent that DOE can conduct a NEPA review. This NEPA determination does not apply to outdoor deployment and BP3 (Tasks 5 and 6) and both are subject to further NEPA review prior to the authorization of federal funds.

DOE has determined that the indoor development and deployment of prototype PV panels and racking in BP2 are consistent with actions defined in DOE categorical exclusion B5.15, "small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects."

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

- Outdoor deployment
- Budget Period 3, Tasks 5 and 6

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Indoor development and deployment as defined in Budget Period 2

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Kelly Daigle 9/24/2012

DOE Share: \$997,070
 Cost Share: \$997,070
 Total Project Cost: \$1,994,140

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: *Kimbi Ke* Date: 10/15/2012
 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