

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: University of California

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : OpenBAS or Turnkey Software Solutions for Small to Medium Commercial Buildings

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number DE-FOA-0000822 Procurement Instrument Number DE-EE0006351 NEPA Control Number GFO-0006351-001 CID Number

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, analysis, and dissemination** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)
- B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects** Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the University of California to develop an open-source Building Automation System for optimizing electricity usage in small and medium-sized buildings.

This project consists of three phases. Phase 1 includes the development of an open software architecture platform interfaced with three hardware devices (thermostat, lighting control, and general controller), software tools, and user interface. Phase 2 includes refinement of the integrated platform and install, debug, and testing of equipment, the software platform, hardware devices, and software tools at either the Facility for Low-Energy eXperiments (FLEXLAB) or similar building-scale test bed in preparation for deployment in up to three existing commercial buildings as part of Phase 3 activities.

This NEPA Determination is for Phase 1 and 2 only. There is a Go/No-Go decision point between Phases 2 and 3. Based upon review of the results of Phase 2 activities, DOE may or may not decide to continue funding the project into Phase 3. If the project is selected to move forward with Phase 3 activities another NEPA review will be required before those activities begin.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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.

