

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: PPG Industries Coatings and Resins R&D

STATE: PA

PROJECT TITLE : Rapid, Compact c-Si Module Manufacturing

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number **Procurement Instrument Number** **NEPA Control Number** **CID Number**
DE-FOA-0000862

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 PPG Industries Coatings and Resins R&D (PPG) to develop an innovative photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing method that uses both materials and processes to addresses the inability for domestic PV manufacturing operations to compete globally. DOE funding would be used to validate 60 and 72-cell modules demonstrating the rapid, compact encapsulation approach, data collection and field testing. All field testing activities have not been defined to the extent that DOE can make a NEPA determination and are conditioned pending further information.

Research and development activities would occur at PPG Coatings Innovation Center located at 4325 Rosanna Drive, Allison Park, Pennsylvania. PPG completed an environmental questionnaire addressing the protocols for laboratory safety, risk management, chemical handling and waste disposal. The laboratory complies with standard safety procedures and all processes and procedures are monitored by appropriate staff. The laboratory has all applicable permits in place, and would not need additional permits for the proposed activities. All handling and disposal of gases, chemicals, wastes and liquid effluents comply with appropriate regulations.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed research and development 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 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.

Prohibited actions include:

The scope of work includes third party independent testing of the solar modules, however the third party sites have not yet been selected and are not included in this NEPA review. Therefore, any potential field testing activities at any third party test sites, DOE Regional Test Centers, or at PPG's solar array in Pittsburg are prohibited and subject to additional NEPA review by DOE.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

This NEPA determination applies to all tasks except field testing of the solar modules at third party sites.

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 :

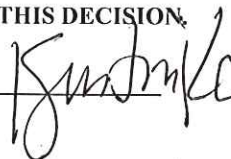
This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Kelly Daigle 9/10/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer



Date: 9/11/2013

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: _____