

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
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-0005441-003	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:

- B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres 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.
- 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.
- 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.)

Rationale for determination:

DOE is proposing to authorize federal funding for Budget Period 3 and 4 of the Georgia Tech Applied Research Corporation (GTARC) SIMPLE BoS project. DOE has previously authorized funding for Budget Periods (BP) 1 and 2. BP 3 and 4 are a continuation of those efforts.

BP 3 and 4 activities include designing, demonstrating and verifying pre-commercial designs for GTARC's next generation solar PV balance of system (BOS) design.

Project activities would be completed at Georgia Tech facilities. DOE has completed two previous NEPA Determinations for BP1 and 2 of this project (GFO-0005441-001 and -002, CX A9, B3.6 and B5.15). In BP 3 and 4 GTARC would continue work in the same facilities as BP 1 and 2.

GTARC is also proposing to deploy a small solar PV system at Ponce City Market in Atlanta, GA. The proposed 20kw PV system would be roof mounted and be approximately 20' by 30' and less than 2' tall. Prior to DOE authorizing funding for the Ponce City Market PV deployment, DOE must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Activities proposed for BP 3 and 4 include design, demonstration, and pre-commercial verification of a next generation solar PV balance of system design. All activities would take place in existing facilities and within previously developed areas. DOE has determined that categorical exclusions A9, B3.6, and B5.16 apply. However, the installation of the PV system at the Ponce City Market site proposed under task 5.5) is conditioned upon DOE's completion of the Section 106 review process.

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:

Installation of the Ponce City Market solar PV array under subtask 5.5.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

The remainder of BP 3 and 4 activities.

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 :

DOE is required to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act prior to authorizing the expenditure of project funds for the proposed solar PV installation at Ponce City Market. The recipient is restricted from initiating this installation until DOE concludes the Section 106 consultation process and notification has been received from DOE. The DOE Contracting Officer will notify the recipient in writing when they are authorized to this activity.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 1/8/2014

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: _____