

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Florida State University

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE : Sunshine State Solar Grid Initiative SUNGRIN

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0000085	DE-EE0004682	GFO-0004682-001	GO4682

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:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	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.)
<b>B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects</b>	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 Florida State University (FSU) to understand and enable high-penetration levels of solar photovoltaic (PV) in the electric power grid. DOE funding would be used for electric power distribution circuit modeling and simulation, collection of data from circuits and solar PV sites, analysis of simulation results and field data, development of computer scripts, code and website functionality, development of reports, and delivery of training. DOE funding would also be used for workshops, publication and outreach activities.

A previous NEPA determination funded under ARRA was made on 03/18/2012 for Phase 1, 2 and 3 of the project under award number DE-EE0002063 (GFO-10-272, CX A9 and B3.6) which included the development and use of validated software models to simulate high levels of PV grid integration. This NEPA determination applies to the final phase of the project, Phase 4, which includes power distribution circuit modeling and simulation for data collection and analysis purposes.

Research and Development work would occur at the Florida State Center (FSU) for Advanced Power Systems located at 2000 Levy Avenue in Tallahassee Florida and at the University of Central Florida (UCF) Solar Energy Center located at 1679 Clearlake Road in Cocoa Florida. There are no proposed modifications, changes in use or operation of either of these existing facilities or proposed modifications to transmission lines or other utilities.

FSU completed an environmental questionnaire addressing the protocols for laboratory and facility safety, risk management and waste disposal. The laboratories and facility comply with standard safety procedures and all processes and procedures are monitored by Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) staff. The laboratories and facilities have 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 research, development and analysis 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 final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

May Mock 2/10/2014

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

2/10/2014

**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: