

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:USPVMC, Inc

STATE: NY

**PROJECT TITLE :** U.S. PHOTOVOLTAIC MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM (USPVMC) - ENABLING AMERICA'S SOLAR REVOLUTION

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
FOA-0000259	DE-EE0004947	GFO-0004947-003	GO4947

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.
<b>B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems</b>	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.

## Rationale for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to U.S. Photovoltaic Manufacturing Consortium (PVMC), a multi-faceted industry-driven collaborative intended to accelerate the coordination of stakeholders and fund technology development efforts across the solar industry and facilitate the development of a strong PV manufacturing industry and supply chain in the United States.

DOE completed two previous NEPA reviews for Budget Period (BP) 1 and 2 tasks (GFO-0004947-001 CX A9, B3.6 and B5.1 on 9/1/2011 and GFO-0004947-002 CX B3.6 on 9/1/2011) which included research and development (R&D) activities and the purchase and installation of solar PV manufacturing equipment. This NEPA determination applies to BP3 tasks only as described below.

For BP3, the proposed project activities would include PV market analysis; development and indoor testing of prototype lightweight PV mounting systems; outdoor testing of prototype lightweight PV mounting systems; testing of PV module (panel and mounting system) manufacturing; field-testing of lightweight PV modules in a solar array; and research, development and testing of PV module and mono-crystalline silicon wafer technology.

Outdoor testing of prototype mounting systems (Task 3) would occur directly adjacent to the US PVMC facilities in Halfmoon, NY. Seventy (70) PV panels would be mounted to mock roofs in a fenced-in area of what is currently a parking lot for the PVMC facilities. The PVMC facility is located in a business park surrounded by other commercial buildings and parking lots. Small forested areas separate the proposed site from the main road and nearby neighborhoods. No negative visual impacts are expected as a result of the proposed prototype testing at this location. The mock roof testing structure would require a general building permit. Field-testing of lightweight PV modules (Task 5) would be an expansion to existing PV installations at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering in Albany, NY, or at the DOE Vermont Photovoltaic Regional Test Center in Williston, VT. Field-testing would include installation and testing of four five kilowatt PV systems and one 200 kilowatt PV system totaling approximately 1,500 PV panels covering up to .5 acres. Both facilities where field-testing activities would occur are designed for this type of research; therefore, no new construction, modifications or new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations are required as

result of the proposed project. All other R&D tasks would be completed indoors at facilities that were categorically excluded in the previous NEPA determinations noted above, therefore, no significant impacts to the environment are expected as a result of project work for BP3 that would be completed at those locations.

Based on a review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the proposed BP3 activities would not have significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that the work outlined is consistent with the actions identified in categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects," and B5.16 "solar photovoltaic systems" 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:

This restriction does not preclude you from:

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.

DOE has not made a NEPA determination for this award, and funding for 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:

Budget Period 4-6 tasks

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Budget Period 3 tasks only

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.

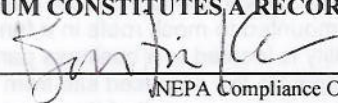
Note to Specialist :

Review completed by Logan Sholar on 8/18/14.

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

8/18/2014

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

Field Office Manager review required

**NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**