

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: SMASH SOLAR INC

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : SMASH HIT 2

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number DE-FOA-0000923	Procurement Instrument Number DE-EE0006693	NEPA Control Number GFO-0006693-001	CID Number
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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 SMASH Solar, Inc. to develop a solar installation system design that will reduce the complexity and skill requirements of solar installation, allowing any licensed contractor to install a solar array with minimal training. This NEPA determination applies to all activities described in the Statement of Project Objectives, excluding subtask 4.4—product installation documentation. Locations for outdoor testing are currently unknown; therefore further NEPA review will be required once installation sites have been selected.

The proposed activities would include development of a pilot-scale assembly process, validation of customer demand and product development. Pilot-scale manufacturing and inventory control would be handled through SMASH Solar, Inc.'s dedicated lab facility in Richmond, CA while certification, testing and analysis activities would be subcontracted to PVEL laboratory in Berkeley both of which are designed for this type of research; therefore, no modifications or new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations would be necessary.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is required of all SMASH employees and there would be health and safety policies in place to protect workers and the surrounding community from off-gassing of any harmful chemicals produced by the use of adhesives. Any solid wastes generated by this project would be recycled when possible. When recycling is not an option, waste would be stored on-site in dedicated storage containers until it can be removed from the facility. Waste generated by PVEL would be removed and transported to appropriate disposal facilities by and according to the safety protocols of SMASH Solar, Inc. All facilities meet or exceed federal safety and hazardous materials standards and no siting, construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions/facilities would be required.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project, excluding subtask 4.4 - installation and testing activities, would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that this project, excluding Subtask 4.4 which requires further NEPA review when demonstration sites are selected, is consistent with actions outlined 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 therefore 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:

Subtask 4.4--Product installation documentation

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Tasks 1-3,

Subtasks 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and

Tasks 5-7.

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.

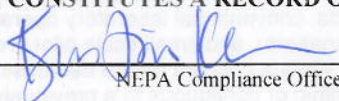
Note to Specialist :

This NEPA determination does require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord 09/03/2014.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

9/4/2014

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: _____