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(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:**Solar Energy Technology Office

**STATE:** Mult

**PROJECT TITLE :** Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC): National Solar Recognition/Designation Program for Solar Stakeholders and Communities

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001241	N/A	GFO-0001241-001	

**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.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

DOE is proposing to publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) called Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC), which would establish a prominent national recognition and technical assistance program for local governments that will signal to installers and the public that a community is receptive to solar businesses and has progressive solar policies in place. Through SPARC, DOE would seek to build on recent efforts to help communities move towards more solar-favorable practices and thriving solar markets.

DOE is proposing to make two awards through the SPARC FOA. SPARC awards would not be given directly to local governments; rather, local governments that qualify for recognition will receive a prominent national designation and would join a peer network of leading communities across the country. One of the two awards would support a designation program that would be named and maintained by a Designation Program Administrator (DPA – Topic A). The second award would go to a Technical Assistance Provider that would work with communities that demonstrate a commitment to achieving recognition (TAP – Topic B).

The SPARC FOA would provide funding to establish and administer a designation program and to establish and administer a technical assistance program. Activities funded through the FOA would be limited to administrative activities and technical assistance. These activities are consistent with CX A9 and CX A11. This NEPA determination applies to all awards made under the SPARC FOA.

**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.

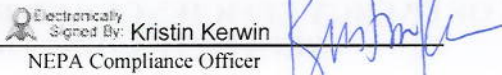
Note to Specialist :

Solar Energy Technology Program

This NEPA determination applies to the FOA and to all awards funded through the FOA. This determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Kristin Kerwin 11/26/2014

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
NEPA Compliance Officer Date: 11/26/2014

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager