

PMC-ND
(1/08/09/13)

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



RECIPIENT: PPG Industries Inc

STATE: PA

PROJECT TITLE : Coatings and Process Development Reduced Energy Automotive OEM Manufacturing

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000560	DE-EE0005777	GFO-0005777-001	GO5777

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 PPG Industries Inc. (PPG) to demonstrate a lower energy/higher productivity automotive coating system. Work would occur at facilities in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and North Dakota.

Initial laboratory activities occurring at PPG's facility in Pennsylvania would include the synthesis of polymer compositions, formulation of these polymers into prototype automotive coatings, application of the coatings to test coupons and characterization of appearance and physical properties. Design and fabrication of lab scale equipment for the application and cure of the coatings would occur at engineering offices located in Michigan. A university partner would perform combinatorial research to identify catalysts and catalyst combinations to accelerate cure response at lower temperatures in their labs located in North Dakota.

Laboratory work would involve handling materials that contain organic solvents as well as operating processes at high temperature. Synthetic polymer synthesis activities would be conducted at lab scale quantities. All handling and process operations would occur in accordance with proper handling and processing protocols. Existing Environmental Health & Safety policies, procedures, and training are sufficient for all proposed activities. A prototype oven would be installed at one of the existing facilities and connected to the existing ventilation system but there would be no change in the use, mission, or operation of the existing facilities. No new permits or approvals are needed to conduct the proposed project activities.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined the proposed activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed activities are 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 are 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

