

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: NREL

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE: NREL; International Institute for Energy System Integration (iiESI); NREL tracking no. 15-026

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-15-026	GO28308

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:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) proposes to establish the international institute for Energy System Integration (iiESI) to further the understanding of complex energy systems and accelerate the transition to integrated energy systems globally. The mission of iiESI is through knowledge capture, management and transfer, to ensure that investments in energy systems integration (ESI) are coordinated and optimized to yield the greatest value possible to the global community in an effort to develop clean, reliable, resilient, and affordable power systems throughout the world.

iiESI would be led by NREL and may include also researchers from NREL, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), University College Dublin (UCD), Technical University of Denmark (DTU), University of Leuven (KU Leuven), and others. Participation in the iiESI would be open to any institution or entity actively involved in ESI-related R&D, education or training, such as academic institutions, national laboratories, research organization, energy companies, suppliers, vendors, etc. iiESI activities would include:

- Holding globally-focused meetings (2-3 per year, rotating) to foster exchange of ideas, results, lessons learned, and best practices from ESI-related activities. Topics would range from policy and market considerations to technical challenges for building clean, reliable, resilient, and affordable energy systems
- Coordinating, where feasible, institutional investments in future ESI R&D to enable efficient and leveraged use of resources worldwide.
- Creating a framework for knowledge capture, management and transfer from energy systems experiments conducted to date and in future, including but not limited to internet portals, blogs, wikis, and other collaborative tools; a repository for ESI capabilities, contacts, publications, data and research; and coordinated knowledge activities, capabilities, and experience.
- Developing shared resources for ESI workforce development and training (online and classroom) including ESI curricula and courses, hands-on research experiences, support for student ESI projects and thesis topics, internships and staff exchanges, and online resources to aid ESI education worldwide. Course would be designed for graduate students and practitioners working in the field to give a perspective on the state of the art in ESI.

iiESI activities would largely be virtual or would occur at existing facilities utilizing existing resources, and would be limited

to information gathering, data analysis, information dissemination (including but not limited to document publication and distribution, classroom training, and informational programs), and technical advice and assistance.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the activities associated with the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. Pursuant with 10 CFR 1021.102(b), DOE's NEPA implementing regulations do not technically apply to DOE actions having environmental effects outside the United States, its territories or possessions. DOE actions having environmental effects outside the United States are subject to Executive Order (EO) 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions and DOE guidelines implementing EO 12114 (46 FR 1007). However, DOE has determined that this proposed action would be consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information Gathering, Analysis, and Dissemination," and A11 "Technical Advice and Assistance to Other Organizations."

This action is exempt from further review under EO 12114 per Section 5.1.1 (Actions not having a significant effect on the environment outside the US) of the DOE EO 12114 Implementing Guidelines, as well as Section 6.1 and Appendix B.2 and B.3 (Classes of actions which DOE has determined do not have significant environmental impacts requiring review under these guidelines):

Appendix B.2 – Approval of technical exchange arrangements for information, data, or personnel with other countries or international organizations.

Appendix B.3 - Approval of arrangements to assist other countries in identifying and analyzing their energy resources, needs, and options.

**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 :

NEPA review completed by Rob Smith on 7/14/2015  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Kristin Kerwin

Date:

7/16/2015

NEPA Compliance Officer

**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