

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:Energy Development LLC (SafeConnect Solar)

STATE: HI

PROJECT TITLE Reducing Hard Costs Through Software Innovation

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000923	DE-EE0006689	GFO-0006689-002	GO6689

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:

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems 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:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Energy Development LLC (SafeConnect Solar) to build and test prototypes of hardware components that would reduce the cost of photovoltaic (PV) solar installations.

There is a previous NEPA determination for this award (GFO-0006689-001; CX B3.6; 9/4/2014) which reviewed design, and bench-scale fabrication and testing of electrical connection hardware for PV systems. Task 4, Subtask 4.3 - Installation and Monitoring of Prototypes included field testing of hardware and was prohibited under the original NEPA determination as the site locations for field testing were unknown. A site location for the Task 4, Subtask 4.3 field testing activity has been identified so this NEPA determination is a review of the proposed Task 4, Subtask 4.3 field testing activity.

The proposed project activity would consist of installing a 7.6 kilowatt ground-mounted PV system connected to SafeConnect hardware on private property located at 899 Stony Hill Rd., Wilbraham, MA. 35 PV panels totaling 500 square feet would be placed at the property in an unused agricultural field. Ground disturbance would be limited to trenching 200 feet of conduit from the panels to the inverter at the grid tie-in through previously disturbed agricultural field. The panels themselves would use ballasts and would not require ground disturbance for installation. Due to the location of the proposed PV system on previously disturbed ground in a rural area, adverse impacts to sensitive resources are not expected. Solid wastes generated by this project would be small scrap quantities of wire, cabling, and plastic. All waste would be recycled or disposed of in municipal landfills or waste management facilities according to local, state and Federal regulations.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B5.16 "Solar photovoltaic systems" and is 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 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 Technologies Office
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Logan Sholar on 8/6/2015

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 8/11/2015
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