

PMC-ND  
 (1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:** Abengoa Solar LLC

**STATE:** CO

**PROJECT TITLE :** Advanced Trough with Lower-cost System-architecture (ATLAS)

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001186	DE-EE0007121	GFO-0007121-001	

**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.)
- 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.
- B5.17 Solar thermal systems** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available smallscale solar thermal systems (including, but not limited to, solar hot water systems) located on or contiguous to a building, and 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 Abengoa Solar LLC to design, develop, fabricate and test an advanced parabolic trough collector.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include the design, fabrication and lab testing of hardware components such as motors and gear boxes for the parabolic trough collector. A small-scale prototype collector having an eight meter aperture and a length of 48 meters would be fabricated, installed and tested at the SolarTAC facility in Watkins, CO. The collector would be able to move, but would not be equipped with a heat transfer fluid system for collecting energy. Lab testing of hardware components and life cycle testing of batteries would be completed using established facilities by sub-contractors.

Proposed project work at the SolarTAC facility would use existing onsite equipment, fences and roads to assemble and install the trough collectors. The ground disturbing activities would be limited to the installation of driven piles which would support the collector. The SolarTAC facility has been zoned and permitted specifically for the testing of new solar collectors. No modifications or new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations would be necessary, no major construction would occur, nor would the mission or operation of the facility be altered. Existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments. No materials, hazardous or otherwise, would be used or produced during the course of this project.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that the proposed project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination", B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations and pilot projects",

and B5.17 "Solar thermal systems" and is therefore 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.

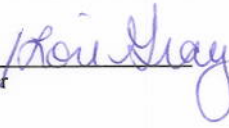
Note to Specialist :

Solar Energy Technologies Office  
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.  
Review completed by Logan Sholar, 08/28/2015

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray  
NEPA Compliance Officer



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/31/2015

**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: \_\_\_\_\_