

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:The Research Foundation of the State University of New York

STATE: NY

PROJECT TITLE U.S. PHOTOVOLTAIC MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM (USPVMC) - ENABLING AMERICA'S
: SOLAR REVOLUTION

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000259	DE-EE0004947	GFO-0004947-004	GO4947

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.)
- B3.11 Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components** Outdoor tests and experiments for the development, quality assurance, or reliability of materials and equipment (including, but not limited to, weapon system components) under controlled conditions. Covered actions include, but are not limited to, burn tests (such as tests of electric cable fire resistance or the combustion characteristics of fuels), impact tests (such as pneumatic ejector tests using earthen embankments or concrete slabs designated and routinely used for that purpose), or drop, puncture, water-immersion, or thermal tests. Covered actions would not involve source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials, except encapsulated sources manufactured to applicable standards that contain source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials may be used for nondestructive actions such as detector/sensor development and testing and first responder field training.

Rationale for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to U.S. Photovoltaic Manufacturing Consortium (PVMC), a multi-faceted industry-driven collaborative intended to accelerate the coordination of stakeholders and fund technology development efforts across the solar industry and facilitate the development of a strong PV manufacturing industry and supply chain in the United States.

DOE completed three previous NEPA reviews for Budget Period (BP) 1, 2 and 3 tasks (GFO-0004947-001; CX A9, B3.6, B5.1; 9/1/2011, GFO-0004947-002; CX B3.6; 9/1/2011, and GFO-0004947-003; CX A9, B3.6; 8/18/14) which included research and development activities, purchase and installation of solar PV manufacturing equipment, and field testing of PV modules and mounting systems. This NEPA determination applies to BP 4 tasks only as described below. There will be a Go/No-Go decision at the end of BP 4.

BP 4 would consist of four main tasks and associated subtasks. Tasks 0 and 1 would include meetings, member recruitment, and product marketing and economic analysis activities. Task 2 would include development and demonstration of PV module, mount and wiring packages. Demonstration of the packages would include the installation of two PV systems on existing test roofs at the U.S. PVMC facility in Halfmoon, NY which was reviewed in a previous NEPA determination, GFO-0004947-003. The PV systems would be less than 10kW each. Task 3 would include data collection and computer modeling activities.

The facility where field-testing activities would occur is designed for this type of research; therefore, no new construction, modifications or new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations are required as result of the proposed project. DOE has determined that no adverse impacts to sensitive resources would occur as a result of the proposed project.

Based on a review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the proposed project would not have significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that the work outlined is consistent with the actions identified in categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering,

analysis, and dissemination" and B3.11 "Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components" and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Budget Period 5 and Budget Period 6 tasks and associated activities

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Budget Period 4 tasks and associated activities

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

The recipient is required to submit a new EQ-1 for Budget Periods 5 and 6 activities when the those tasks have been defined to the extent that DOE can complete additional NEPA review.

Note to Specialist :

Solar Energy Technologies Office

Review completed by Logan Sholar on 1/06/16.

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

Date:

1/7/2016

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