

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity**STATE:** IL

**PROJECT TITLE** State of Illinois SEP: Illinois Institute of Technology: Technology and Demonstration Grant No. 13-432008: Smart Energy Storage System in Hybrid AC/DC Microgrid

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
SEP-ALRD-2014	DE-EE0006225	GFO-0006225-003	

**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.)

**B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects**

Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located 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 the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to demonstrate a novel approach to integrating energy storage systems within microgrid environments where renewable energy assets are deployed.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include the installation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) beneath an existing set of exterior stairs at the Keating Hall building on the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) campus in Chicago, IL. There would also be an education and outreach component of the proposed project to develop a curriculum based on smart energy storage. The system would be comprised of a 300 square foot room placed on existing concrete that would house batteries and other electrical equipment associated with a modular, pre-assembled BESS. The BESS would be tied into the existing roof-mounted PV system at Keating Hall as well as the existing IIT microgrid infrastructure. Due to the placement of the BESS underneath the stairs, the structure would be minimally visible. The proposed project would require a standard building permit from the Chicago Department of Buildings that would be obtained prior to beginning construction. There would be no hazardous or listed materials or components involved in this project. There would be no ground disturbance required for the proposed installation activities. No change in the use, mission or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort.

IIT's main campus is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. The building where the BESS would be installed was built in 1967 and is not listed on the National Register. Consultation with the Illinois SHPO under Section 106 was completed, and the SHPO concluded that no historic properties would be affected.

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 this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination" and B5.15 "Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects" 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 :

Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs  
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.  
Review completed by Logan Sholar, 12/29/2015

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

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



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 1/8/2016

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