

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:DOE on behalf of any selected applicants

STATE: Mult

PROJECT TITLE : State Energy Strategies and Innovation Studies

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001496		GFO-0001496-001	

**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.)

Rationale for determination:

DOE is proposing to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0001496) through which the Solar Energy Technologies Office would provide financial assistance to applicants with proposals aimed at reducing the soft costs of solar deployment.

Two approaches, referred to as Topic 1 and Topic 2, are proposed for investigation under this FOA. Topic 1, would be targeted at increasing our foundational understanding of technology evolution, soft costs, and barriers to solar deployment in the US. Topic 2 would directly tackle soft costs and market barrier challenges at the state and regional level by maximizing the benefits of solar electricity through energy and economic strategic planning. This program would target partnerships between states and utilities that look to develop and implement strategies to: determine or expand renewable energy targets, maximize emissions reductions, hedge against fuel price volatility, create jobs, expand energy access, and increase grid resiliency.

All project activities would consist exclusively of intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would not use any physical resources beyond normal office supplies.

DOE has determined that any project selected for financial assistance through this FOA would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that projects funded through the proposed funding opportunity would be consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination" and are 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 the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the

Recipient is 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:

This NEPA Determination applies to the issuance of the FOA as well as all awards selected under the FOA, provided the scope of the selected awards remains consistent with the intent of the FOA as currently described. If selected applicants propose to use project funds for activities outside the scope of this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review will be required.

Note to Specialist :

Solar Energy Technologies Office

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord 1/29/2016.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

Date: 2/1/2016

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:

Field Office Manager

Date: