

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



RECIPIENT:U.S. Department of Energy (on behalf of all Awardees)

STATE: Mult

PROJECT TITLE : U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2015

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number **Procurement Instrument Number** **NEPA Control Number** **CID Number**
DE-FOA-0000959 GFO-FOA0000959-001

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:

Solar Decathlon 2015 consists of approximately 18 domestic and international affiliated collegiate teams that would utilize DOE and cost share funds to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost effective, energy-efficient, and attractive. The Solar Decathlon is a two-year program that culminates with an on-site competition between each university team that submits a home for the competition. The first year is centered on design while the second year involves materials selection, construction and fundraising. After construction is completed on campus, the houses are disassembled and transported to the event site where they are reassembled and made ready for the competition. After the competition is over the teams and organizers have five days for disassembly. This NEPA Determination is for first year (Budget Period 1) activities only which are limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities such as planning and design. If a team decides to include construction activities in Budget Period 1, another NEPA Determination specific to that team and activity will be required in addition to this NEPA Determination. Second year (Budget Period 2) activities will require additional NEPA Determinations of each team's proposed activities separately. The following 18 schools have been selected for award negotiation:

- DE-EE0006547: Stevens Institute of Technology
- DE-EE0006548: University of California, Irvine
- DE-EE0006549: State University of New York (SUNY) University at Buffalo
- DE-EE0006550: Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University
- DE-EE0006551: California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo
- DE-EE0006552: Yale University
- DE-EE0006554: State University of New York (SUNY) at Alfred
- DE-EE0006555: Crowder College
- DE-EE0006556: Vanderbilt University
- DE-EE0006557: University of Florida
- DE-EE0006558: The University of Texas at Austin
- DE-EE0006559: Clemson University
- DE-EE0006560: University of California, Davis
- DE-EE0006561: West Virginia University
- DE-EE0006562: Missouri University of Science and Technology
- DE-EE0006563: California State University, Sacramento
- DE-EE0006565: New York City College of Technology
- DE-EE0006566: Western New England University

DOE has determined that intellectual, academic, or analytical activities such as planning and design occurring as part of first year (Budget Period 1) activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health

and/or environment. DOE has determined that these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," 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:

Construction activities during first year (Budget Period 1)

All second year (Budget Period 2) activities

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Intellectual, academic, or analytical activities such as planning and design during first year (Budget Period 1)

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.

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA Determination does require a tailored NEPA provision.

Casey Strickland 03/24/2014

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 3/26/2014
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