

100521/

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:U.S. Forest Service

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : OFF-GRID ENERGY FOR USDA FOREST SERVICE PROTOTYPE LOCATIONS

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000901	DE-EE0006619	GFO-0006619-001	

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:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to U.S. Forest Service, Region 5 in support of the proposed OFF-GRID ENERGY FOR USDA FOREST SERVICE PROTOTYPE LOCATIONS project. U.S. Forest Service, Region 5 is proposing to install fourteen (14) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy collection and battery-backup power distribution systems at off-grid and remote Forest Service facilities on eleven (11) National Forests within U.S. Forest Service Region 5 (California), and install a single small-scale hydroelectric turbine, with micro-grid tie-in to an existing PV system, at one additional Forest Service facility on National Forest System (NFS) lands. This project was selected by DOE under the Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies (AFFECT) Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0000901).

The proposed project has not been defined to the extent that DOE can complete a final NEPA determination at this time. This conditional NEPA determination applies solely to preliminary and planning activities required to define the project to a degree that DOE can complete a final NEPA determination.

The recipient is a federal agency and is also required to comply with NEPA. When the recipient has completed their NEPA review process for the proposed project, they will provide this information to DOE in an EQ-1. DOE will make a final NEPA Determination prior to authorizing the expenditure of DOE funding for final review, final design, capital equipment purchase, issuance of a task order, and implementation of the proposed project.

DOE has determined that Tasks 1 and 2 of the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulate impact to human health and/or the environment. Further, DOE has determined that Tasks 1 and 2 are consistent with CX A9 "Information gathering, analysis and dissemination" and are 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:

Task 3

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Tasks 1 and 2

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 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: 7/11/2014
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