

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-0004947-005 | 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 (USPVMC), 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 photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing industry and supply chain in the United States.

DOE completed two previous NEPA reviews for Budget Periods (BP) 1 and 2 (GFO-0004947-001 CX A9, B3.6 and B5.1 on 9/1/2011; GFO-0004947-002 CX B3.6 on 9/1/2011) which included research and development (R&D) activities and the purchase and installation of PV manufacturing equipment. A third determination was completed for BP 3 tasks (GFO-0004947-003 CX A9, B3.6 on 08/08/2014) which included PV market analysis; development and indoor testing of prototype lightweight PV mounting systems; outdoor testing of prototype lightweight PV mounting systems; testing of PV module (panel and mounting system) manufacturing; field-testing of lightweight PV modules in a solar array; and research, development and testing of PV module and mono-crystalline silicon wafer technology. A fourth NEPA determination was completed for tasks associated with BP 4 (GFO-0004947-004 CX A9, B3.11 on 1/6/2016) which included meetings, member recruitment, and product marketing and economic analysis activities; development and demonstration of PV module, mount and wiring packages; and data collection and computer modeling activities. This NEPA determination applies to only BP 5 tasks as described below. There will be a Go/No-Go decision at the end of BP 5.

BP 5 would consist of four main tasks and associated subtasks. Tasks 0 and 1 would include meetings, member and partner recruitment, completion of a tech-to-market business plan, and product marketing and economic analysis activities. Task 2 would include cost analysis, development, and demonstration of components for installations. Demonstration of components would necessitate the operation and upgrade of the established photovoltaic systems at the pilot scale (<10kW each) at the U.S. PVMC facility in Halfmoon, NY which was reviewed in a previous NEPA determination (GFO-0004947-003). Task 3 would include data collection and analysis, and computer modeling.

The facility where field-testing activities would occur was 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. All other project activities would be limited to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would use no materials other than basic office supplies and software. DOE has determined that no adverse impacts

to sensitive resources would occur as a result of the proposed project.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined that Budget Period 5 fits within the class of action(s) and the integral elements of 10 CFR 1021 subpart B outlined in the DOE categorical exclusion(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. Budget Period 5 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 6 tasks and associated activities

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Budget Period 5 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.

Note to Specialist :


Solar Energy Technologies Office

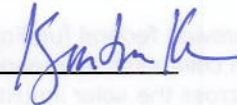
This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord, 7/25/2016

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer



Date: 8/1/2016

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: _____