

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Multiple Recipients

STATE: Mult

PROJECT TITLE SOLAR ENERGY EVOLUTION AND DIFFUSION STUDIES II - STATE ENERGY STRATEGIES
: (SEEDSII-SES)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
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, information 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.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

As part of a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) numbered DE-FOA-0001496, DOE has selected 18 applicants to reduce the soft costs of solar energy deployment by increasing the foundational understanding of technology evolution, soft costs, and barriers to solar deployment in the U.S., and addressing 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.

Applicants selected to participate and their corresponding Award Number are as follows:

Arizona State University, DE-EE0007664
 Center for Sustainable Energy, DE-EE0007663
 Clean Energy States Alliance, Inc., DE-EE0007667
 Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, DE-EE0007671
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, DE-EE0007662
 Minnesota Department of Commerce, DE-EE0007669
 Montana State Energy Office, DE-EE0007672
 National Renewable Energy Lab, N/A
 Nhu Energy, Inc., DE-EE0007668
 North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, DE-EE0007670
 PA Dept. of Environmental Protection-- Office of Energy Policy and Technology Deployment, DE-EE0007666
 Solstice Initiative, DE-EE0007659
 SRI International, DE-EE0007661
 University of Texas at Austin, DE-EE0007658
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, DE-EE0007660
 Washington Dept. of Commerce, DE-EE0007665
 Western Interstate Energy Board, DE-EE0007673
 Yale University, DE-EE0007657

Proposed activities for all selected projects would include behavioral studies regarding decision-making about implementation of solar energy, development of strategies to promote the use of solar energy, and completion of feasibility studies regarding the use of solar energy at a state and regional level. The proposed activities would be exclusively intellectual, academic, or analytical in nature and would require no physical materials beyond basic office supplies and software.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the proposal fits within the class of action(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. All of the projects selected for funding via the SOLAR ENERGY EVOLUTION AND DIFFUSION STUDIES II - STATE ENERGY STRATEGIES (SEEDSII-SES) FOA are 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.

Note to Specialist :

Solar Energy Technologies Office
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Rebecca McCord 08/29/2016.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/31/2016

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: _____