

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:Genbright LLC

STATE: MA

PROJECT TITLE : Achieving Ubiquitous Solar Through Market Transformation And Grid Integration

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001400	DE-EE0007589	GFO-0007589-001	

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.)
- A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.
- B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects** Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Genbright LLC to develop and test software for a scalable commercial platform capable of integrating solar and other Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) into different utility and electricity markets.

Proposed project activities (tasks 1.0, 2.0, 4.0-6.0) include: development, testing and implementation of a data repository; conducting desktop research; identifying data requirements; developing and testing existing software enhancements; outreach and engagement including development of a task force and other partnerships; business development and project management tasks. These activities would take place within the offices of: Genbright, LLC in Hingham, MA; Autogrid in Redwood City, CA; and Conservation Resource Solutions, Inc. in Cumming, GA.

Task 3 of the proposed project would be to implement the developed platform in a diverse portfolio of small-scale DERs to demonstrate use of the data repository and software enhancements. Genbright would enroll existing DERs and/or develop new projects to be part of the portfolio. These activities would take place at multiple types of sites including commercial solar sites. Subtask 3.1 includes site identification activities, outreach, site surveys, data collection, engineering and cost modeling. Until such time as Genbright completes their site selection process in Subtask 3.1, there is not enough information available for DOE to conduct a meaningful review of all subsequent Task 3 activities. Once the sites have been selected and the scope of work is defined at each location further NEPA review will be required prior to initiation of work.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the following tasks: Task 1, Task 2, Subtask 3.1, Task 4, Task 5, and Task 6 fit within the class of action(s) and the integral elements of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021 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. Task 1, Task 2,

Subtask 3.1, Task 4, Task 5, and Task 6 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:

- Subtask 3.2. Develop project sites
- Subtask 3.3. Identify existing projects and related OEMS
- Subtask 3.4. Contract development and negotiation
- Subtask 3.5. DER demonstration

This restriction does not preclude you from:

- Task 1. Data Repository Development
- Task 2. Asset Management Software Enhancements Development
- Subtask 3.1 Identify sites
- Task 4. Outreach and Engagement
- Task 5. Business Development
- Task 6. Project Management

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
http://energy.gov/eere/renewables/solar
This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA Provision.
NEPA review completed by Whitney Doss, 08/18/16

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray / Lori Gray Date: 8/18/2016
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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager