

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Southern California Edison

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Electric Access System Enhancement (EASE)

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0008004	GFO-0008004-001	GO8004

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.)

**B3.6 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.

**B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects** Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

## Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Southern California Edison (SCE) to design, develop, and implement a distributed control architecture (DCA) for integrating energy resources.

The proposed project would involve developing and testing software to enable interoperability of existing distributed energy resources (DERs). These would include primarily solar photovoltaic (PV) and Energy Storage Systems (ESS) assets owned and operated by the project team, in addition to other DER sites and feeder substations that have yet to be identified. Desktop design and development activities would occur at SCE in Westminster, CA as well as the offices of subrecipients located in New York, NY and San Francisco, CA. Hardware-in-the-loop simulations and other indoor laboratory testing would occur at SCE's Advanced Technology Facility in Westminster, CA.

Field-based activities at existing DERs selected for the proposed testing and demonstration tasks would involve installation of a common platform on the sites' computer servers. No new DERs would be installed, and modifications at each site would be limited to the installation of small hardware devices required to implement the new control software. All equipment and work required to install them would be located indoors at facilities that were purpose-built for the type of activities being proposed; no physical modifications to existing structures would result from the proposed installations. The proposed project would either use existing communications infrastructure or obtain computer servers to host the control system. These activities would not result in changes to the use, mission or operation of existing sites.

At this time, two recipient-owned DER sites have been identified for the proposed installations. A common substation software platform would be installed on the computer server at SCE's Camden Substation in Camden, CA. A distributed control system would be installed for a 12 month verification period on the computer server of a grid control



center in Alhambra, CA. The proposed project anticipates selection of multiple other sites throughout the course of scale-up field testing. Although these locations have not yet been identified, due to project work occurring within previously developed energy facilities and the minimal amount of equipment required for software installation, DOE has determined that the proposed activities at these locations do not have the potential to impact any sensitive resources.

The project would generate various non-hazardous waste materials typical of office environments, and these would be disposed of following standard practices. At the end of the project, computing equipment would be kept in use or recycled.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the proposal fits 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. This proposal is 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 Whitney Doss on 6/29/2017

#### SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 Electronically  
Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6/29/2017

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_