

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:**Advanced Microgrid Solutions**STATE:** CA**PROJECT TITLE**
: Security Constrained Economic Optimization of PV and other Distributed Assets

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001495	DE-EE0008010	GFO-0008010-001	GO8010

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Advanced Microgrid Solutions for a project that involves modeling and software development for grid optimization and construction of a microgrid for field testing of grid optimization.

The proposed project involves activities including data analysis, computer modeling, preliminary engineering design, laboratory-scale research, instrumentation, monitoring, field deployment, demonstration, and pilot-scale activities. Software development activities would occur at Advanced Microgrid Solutions headquarters in San Francisco, California and Opus One headquarters in Toronto, Canada.

The microgrid would be built on the grounds of an existing building owned and operated by Georgetown Utility Services in Georgetown, Texas. The system would be housed in an outdoor-rated enclosure approximately 5 feet wide by 12 feet long by 8 feet tall with a foundation 3 feet deep. The system would be constructed on a previously disturbed area. Existing roads and paved areas would be used for site access. The project would involve electrical work at the Utility Services building and would require basic city electrical and building permits. The microgrid would be built in an area that is already disturbed and proximate to an existing building and is therefore not expected to impact any sensitive cultural, historic or natural resources.

The project would involve the use and handling of lithium-Ion batteries and high-voltage electrical systems. Project activities that involve these materials and tasks would pose no risk to the public and workers would all have appropriate required certifications. All hazardous materials would be managed in accordance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations. Existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, personal protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments.

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 Chris Rowe on 8/10/2017

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin  Date: 8/10/2017
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