

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:** University of Arizona

**STATE:** AZ

**PROJECT TITLE** Open Source Evaluation Framework for Solar Forecasting  
 :

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001649	DE-EE-0008214	GFO-0008214-001	

**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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to University of Arizona to develop, demonstrate, test and deploy an open-source solar forecasting framework to facilitate evaluation of irradiance, solar power, and net-load forecasts. The framework would support efforts of teams selected under the DOE's Solar Forecasting 2 funding program and is intended for use by utilities, transmission system operators, balancing authorities, generation fleet operators, and system aggregators.

Proposed project activities include stakeholder engagement to inform development of the forecasting framework, information gathering and data collection, data analysis and development of data qualification tools, development of benchmark forecast metrics, development of a user interface (web portal) for the framework, coordination of operational forecast competitions to test the framework, and deployment of the framework to a cloud-based service. The proposed project would be limited exclusively to intellectual/analytical desktop activities taking place in established computational laboratories and/or offices at sites operated by the prime awardee and sub-recipients, including sites in Tucson, AZ (University of Arizona), Albuquerque, NM (Sandia National Laboratories), Chicago, IL (Electric Power Research Institute – 'EPRI'), and Portland, OR (Sharply Focused). The proposed project would require no materials beyond standard office supplies and software. No change in the use, mission or operation of existing university facilities would arise out of these efforts.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a DOE laboratory may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant DOE NEPA Compliance Officer for the specific DOE laboratory prior to initiating such work. Further, any work conducted at a DOE laboratory must meet the laboratory's health and safety requirements.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined that 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. 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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

Any work proposed to be conducted at a DOE laboratory may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant DOE NEPA Compliance Officer for the specific DOE laboratory prior to initiating such work. Further, any work conducted at a DOE laboratory must meet the laboratory's health and safety requirements.

Note to Specialist :

This determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.  
Prepared by Jonathan Hartman, 4/9/2018  
Solar Energy Technologies Office

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

 Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/10/2018

**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: \_\_\_\_\_