

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Philadelphia Energy Authority**STATE:** PA

PROJECT TITLE: Bright Solar Futures

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001840	DE-EE0008572	GFO-0008572-001	GO8572

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), 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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA) to develop and pilot a solar energy training program. The program would focus on training students enrolled in School District of Philadelphia's (SDP) Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program and the YouthBuild Philly (YBP) Program for entry level jobs in the solar industry. A curriculum would be developed and training would be provided to students that would include classroom education, hands-on training, and paid work experience.

The project would be divided into three Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP. BP1 activities would focus on engaging with relevant stakeholders and initiating the administrative, financial, and program management tasks necessary to establish and initiate the solar energy training program in BP2. In BP1, training cohorts would be formed to pilot the solar energy training program. PEA would deliver approximately 100 hours of training to a cohort of SDP students in the summer as well as 100 hours of training to a cohort of SDP students in the 2019/20 academic year. These pilot programs would be held at existing classroom and lab space facilities at the Knight Training Center of the Energy Coordinating Agency in Philadelphia, PA.

A classroom training facility would be selected during BP1 as part of Subtask 3.7. This facility would be modified to incorporate training equipment for classroom and laboratory spaces as appropriate. Because all previous subtasks are necessary to initiate Subtask 3.7, as information would be gathered that would inform site selection and the development of the solar energy training program, BP1 Subtasks 1.1 – 3.6 are being reviewed as part of this NEPA Determination. BP1 Subtasks 3.8 – 3.9 would also be reviewed, as they would largely take place concurrently with the identification of the training facility site, but work on these two tasks, which would consist of promoting the upcoming training program and identifying candidate students for participation, would need to be initiated prior to site selection and facilities modifications. However, because the site where the training facility would be established is currently unknown, BP1 Subtasks 3.7, 3.10, all BP2 activities and all BP3 activities are restricted until further NEPA review is completed. Additional NEPA review will be completed once all relevant information has been provided by the Recipient.

This NEPA determination applies to the following BP1 tasks/subtasks:

- Subtask 1.1: Execution of contract awards with instructors and training space
- Subtask 1.2: Execution of contract award(s) with education expert(s)

- Subtask 1.3: Engagement with potential program partners
- Subtask 1.4: Selection of an independent program evaluator
- Subtask 1.5: Communication with stakeholders about the training program
- Subtask 2.1: Establishment of an Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC)
- Subtask 2.2: Evaluation of past training program outcomes and labor market data
- Subtask 2.3: Review of relevant existing curricula
- Subtask 2.4: Development of articulation agreements with post-secondary institutions
- Subtask 2.5: Program application materials development
- Subtask 2.6: Syllabi development and instructor professional development
- Subtask 3.1: Identification of internship opportunities for returning students
- Subtask 3.2: Identification of placement opportunities for successful participants
- Subtask 3.3: Selection of CTE students for summer training and internships
- Subtask 3.4: Implementation of pilot summer training program for SDP1 students (Approximately 100 hours)
- Subtask 3.5: Placement of successful trainees in employment or further training
- Subtask 3.6: Implement of pilot 2019/20 school year training for SDP2 students (Approximately 100 hours)
- Subtask 3.8: Promotion of solar energy training program to prospective students
- Subtask 3.9: Selection of Opportunity Youth for first cohort of solar energy training program

All project activities would be completed by PEA (Philadelphia, PA). All activities reviewed as part of this NEPA Determination would be office and classroom-based tasks (e.g. analysis, reporting, stakeholder engagement, program development, and classroom training). No installations or field work would be performed. Accordingly, there would be no change in the use, mission or operation of any existing facilities, nor would any additional permits or authorizations be needed for completion of project work.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Budget Period 1:

- Subtask 1.1: Execution of contract awards with instructors and training space
- Subtask 1.2: Execution of contract award(s) with education expert(s)
- Subtask 1.3: Engagement with potential program partners
- Subtask 1.4: Selection of an independent program evaluator
- Subtask 1.5: Communication with stakeholders about the training program
- Subtask 2.1: Establishment of an Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC)
- Subtask 2.2: Evaluation of past training program outcomes and labor market data
- Subtask 2.3: Review of relevant existing curricula
- Subtask 2.4: Development of articulation agreements with post-secondary institutions
- Subtask 2.5: Program application materials development
- Subtask 2.6: Syllabi development and instructor professional development
- Subtask 3.1: Identification of internship opportunities for returning students
- Subtask 3.2: Identification of placement opportunities for successful participants
- Subtask 3.3: Selection of CTE students for summer training and internships
- Subtask 3.4: Implementation of pilot summer training program for SDP1 students (Approximately 100 hours)
- Subtask 3.5: Placement of successful trainees in employment or further training
- Subtask 3.6: Implement of pilot 2019/20 school year training for SDP2 students (Approximately 100 hours)
- Subtask 3.8: Promotion of solar energy training program to prospective students
- Subtask 3.9: Selection of Opportunity Youth for first cohort of solar energy training program

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Budget Period 1:

- Subtask 3.7: Identify and prepare site for POS
- Subtask 3.10: Deliver training for OppY1 students

Budget Period 2: All Tasks

Budget Period 3 : All Tasks

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA Provision.

NEPA review completed by Jonathan Hartman, 02/27/2019

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/4/2019

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____