

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** GRID Alternatives**STATE:** CA

PROJECT TITLE: Revolving Program Related Investments (PRI's) Energy Savings Fund

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001840	DE-EE0008569	GFO-0008569-001	GO8569

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 federal funding to GRID Alternatives to develop a project financing and business portfolio management platform to facilitate the deployment of future solar photovoltaic (PV) projects at low-to-moderate income (LMI) multifamily properties. The project would identify and secure a pool of program related investment (PRI) capital to develop multifamily rooftop and ground mounted community solar projects.

GRID Alternatives is a solar project development firm and currently holds a large portfolio of solar PV projects at varying stages of the development process, from early financing to site control and initial construction. Under this award, the Recipient would focus on the design of a new business model (a platform of financial, legal and process frameworks) to bring a different form of capital into the existing "pipeline" for acquired projects. The developed model would be applied to the capital stacks of a cohort of previously planned solar PV deployments selected from within GRID Alternative's portfolio in order to demonstrate feasibility. The scope of work associated with DOE funding would be limited to data analysis, software development, and stakeholder engagement to include securing capital and negotiating project agreements.

The proposed project would be completed over three Budget Periods (BPs) with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP. Project milestones would be centered on the amount of capital raised via private foundations; DOE would not evaluate project performance based upon the construction or completion of solar PV projects that may receive funding facilitated by the new business model. Federal funding would not be used for the procurement, installation, or operation of PV systems. DOE has determined that projects matched with the new capital stream by the Recipient would not fit the definition of connected actions under NEPA, and therefore do not require individual NEPA review.

All work would be completed by Grid Alternatives at their offices in Oakland, CA. No change in the use, mission or operation of any existing facilities would arise out of this effort. No physical materials beyond basic office supplies and computers would be required.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

[Solar Energy Technologies Office](#)

[This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.](#)

[NEPA review completed by Whitney Doss Donoghue, 11/13/2019](#)

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.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/13/2019

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: _____