

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** ICAST (International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology)**STATE:** CO

**PROJECT TITLE:** Developing and Piloting Solar Financing Models to expand PV access to Low and Moderate Income Americans

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001840	DE-EE0008568	GFO-0008568-002	GO8568

**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 the International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (ICAST) to develop a business modeling approach to provide access to solar PV and/or solar PV plus storage to Low-and-Medium Income (LMI) households living in multifamily affordable housing (MFAH) properties.

This project would be completed over three Budget Periods (BPs) with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP. ICAST received a conditional NEPA Determination for the project in February, 2019 (GFO-0008568-001; CX A9), which reviewed BP1 tasks. Since that time, all tasks associated with BP2 and BP3 have been defined and a Go Decision has been reached. Therefore, this NEPA Determination is to review remaining project activities.

Proposed activities would center on the development of a business model to aggregate demand from multiple MFAH properties into a single solar investment. ICAST would act as the technical assistance advisor to utility partners in developing low income solar programs where multifamily housing entities are the off-takers. The utilities would select the sites, release the request for proposal (RFPs), select the developers, and own and operate any new solar installations. ICAST would help develop the preliminary financial models only.

All project activities would be completed by ICAST (Lakewood, CO). BP2 and BP3 would consist entirely of office-based tasks (e.g., computer modeling and analysis, reporting, and stakeholder engagement). No installations or field work would be performed under this award. Accordingly, no change in the use, mission, or operation of any existing facilities would arise out of these efforts, nor would any additional permits or authorizations be needed for the completion of project work.

**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, 12/9/2020

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

 Electronically Signed By: **Kristin Kerwin**  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 12/11/2020

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