

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Yale University**STATE:** CT

**PROJECT TITLE:** Patterns and Value of Co-Adoption of Solar and Related Energy Technologies

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002243	DE-EE0009363	GFO-0009363-001	

**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** (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 funding to Yale University to research trends in the co-adoption of residential solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and associated technologies (e.g., energy storage technologies, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency technologies). Yale University and its project partners would analyze existing data on co-adoption across multiple states and would conduct consumer surveys to collect additional data on consumer behavior and perceptions relating to co-adoption of solar PV and energy storage technologies. The project would be completed over three Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP. This NEPA review will be applicable to all three BPs.

Proposed project activities would include data analysis, survey development, survey administration, stakeholder outreach, and dissemination of results. Existing data sets would be utilized for analysis alongside data collected from surveys. Surveys would primarily be conducted online and through mail, with some targeted surveying at the household and municipal levels, which would include phone interviews, group meetings, and/or workshops. Online surveying would occur at the national level. Targeted surveying would occur in Connecticut and Alaska. Webinars would be hosted by Yale University to publicize results from the study.

Yale University would coordinate all project activities and lead a project team in the performance of data analysis, survey development, and survey administration. Various partner institutions would participate in these tasks. These would include Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory ('LBNL' – Berkeley, CA), University of Alaska (Anchorage, AK), New York University (New York, NY), SmartPower (Arlington, VA), and Information Insights (Fairbanks, AK).

Yale University would submit the project to DOE's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for review of human subject protocols for all survey activities. These protocols would include the appropriate handling of personally-identifying information. Surveys would not be performed until obtaining approval from the IRB.

Because project activities would consist solely of computer based research and analysis, consumer surveys, and stakeholder engagement, no significant health and safety risks are anticipated. Nonetheless, Yale University and its project partners would adhere to established institutional health and safety policies and procedures at all times. For in-person interviews or group activities, Yale University and its project partners would adhere to any applicable Federal, state or local COVID-19 restrictions. Yale University and its project partners would observe all applicable Federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant

federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

## 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 Jonathan Hartman, 03/04/2021

## 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: 3/4/2021

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_