PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION

RECIPIENT: SolarBridge **STATE:** TX

PROJECT TITLE : Module-Integrated Power Converters Based on Universal Dock

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000479	DE-EE0005341	GFO-0005341	0

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.)

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rational for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to SolarBridge to advance solar photovoltaic (PV) technology. DOE funding would be used to support research and development of power electronics for alternating current PV modules.

The proposed project would be conducted in three Budget Periods. This NEPA determination applies only to Budget Period 1. Budget Period 2 and 3 will require additional NEPA review.

Budget Period 1 would involve engineering and electronic hardware prototyping work, which would include design, experimentation and data analysis. Laboratory work would be conducted at SolarBridge and SunPower. Both facilities have completed an R&D questionnaire addressing the protocols in place for laboratory safety, risk management, chemical handling and waste disposal.

SolarBridge is located at 9229 Waterford Centre Boulevard #110, Austin, Texas 78758. This facility has a laboratory for electronic, mechanical, and reliability engineering. It includes standard electrical instrumentation (oscilloscopes, multimeters, etc.), mechanical prototyping tools, and environmental chambers. SolarBridge follows all OSHA and company safety standards. The laboratory does not handle, gases, chemicals or liquid effluents.

SunPower is located at 77 Rio Robles, San Jose, California 95134. SunPower follows all OSHA and company safety standards. The facility employs a staff of Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) that continually evaluate new and current regulations, develop and implement environmental and safety programs and perform periodic regulatory assessments to ensure compliance. In addition, the organization maintains certification to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System.

All chemicals are stored in chemical storage cabinets and separated according to hazard classification. Corrosive wastes, other than hydrofluoric acid, are treated in the wastewater treatment unit. The system automatically shuts down if the effluent is outside of the permit limits to ensure no out of specification effluent is discharged. Other liquid and solid wastes are collected and stored in proper containers with secondary containment prior to shipment through a hazardous waste disposal contractor. The facility operates under all applicable permits to conduct research including air permits, wastewater permit, storm water permit and hazardous materials permit.

Based on this information, DOE has determined the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in categorical exclusion A9 (information gathering) and B3.6 (small-scale research and development activities, laboratory operations

and pilot projects).

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:
Budget Period 2 and 3
This restriction does not preclude you from:
Budget Period 1
If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Cristina Tyler 12.9.2011

DOE Funding: $800,000
Cost Share: $200,000
Total Project Cost: $1,000,000

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 12/14/2011
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager