

PMC-EF2a

(2.01.02)

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



RECIPIENT: New Mexico State University

STATE: NM

PROJECT TITLE : An Integrated Partnership to Create and Lead the Solar Codes and Standards Working Group

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-PS36-07GO97005	DE-FC36-07GO17034	GFO-GO17034-002	GO17034

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.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

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.

B3.11 Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components

Outdoor tests and experiments for the development, quality assurance, or reliability of materials and equipment (including, but not limited to, weapon system components) under controlled conditions. Covered actions include, but are not limited to, burn tests (such as tests of electric cable fire resistance or the combustion characteristics of fuels), impact tests (such as pneumatic ejector tests using earthen embankments or concrete slabs designated and routinely used for that purpose), or drop, puncture, water-immersion, or thermal tests. Covered actions would not involve source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials, except encapsulated sources manufactured to applicable standards that contain source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials may be used for nondestructive actions such as detector/sensor development and testing and first responder field training.

Rational for determination:

DOE made a previous determination (GFO-07-049; CX A9 and A11; signed 4.4.07) to provide funding to New Mexico State University (NMSU) to support development of research reports, and codes and standards documents for photovoltaic (PV) solar technologies. This NEPA determination applies to a SOPO modification.

DOE requested NMSU discontinue subtask 5.2.3 in order to proceed with other tasks of greater importance to the solar community within the timeframe of this grant. Subtask 5.2.3 has been removed from the scope of the proposed project and replaced with the following:

Subtask 4.2.3 Flammability Testing
Subtask 4.2.5 Ground-fault Protection Movements
Subtask 4.2.6 PV Maintenance Guidebook
Subtask 4.4.3 Temporary Overvoltage Study Report

Of these subtasks, 4.2.6 and 4.4.3 are paper studies only. Subtask 4.2.5 is a modeling study that would include electrical field measurements conducted at existing PV power systems. No construction or installation of equipment or hardware would be required. The work product of these three subtasks, therefore, are reports, studies, and papers describing codes and standards needs for PV systems and policy.

Subtask 4.2.3 would involve flammability testing to be conducted at Underwriters Laboratories, LLC (UL), a fire engineering test facility located at 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062. UL has completed an R&D

questionnaire addressing the protocols for laboratory safety, risk management, chemical handling and waste disposal. UL complies with standard laboratory safety procedures. Labs are inspected by staff and safety personnel. UL has all applicable permits in place to conduct research on site including:

USEPA Number is ILDO06932990
 ILEPA Number is 0312070006
 Lifetime Operating Permit (Air Permit) is 031207AAJ
 NPDES Permit is IL0002739
 Sewer Discharge Authorization is 20636-4

Based on this information, DOE has determined the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in categorical exclusion A9 (information gathering, analysis and dissemination), A11 (technical advice and assistance to organizations), B3.6 (Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects) and B3.11 (outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components).

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Cristina Tyler 2.15.2012

DOE Funding: \$500,000

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


 NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

2/23/2012

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: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____