PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: MI Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth **STATE:** MI

PROJECT TITLE : Clean Energy Advanced Manufacturing Phase 2 - URV USA

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE0000166	GFO-09-148-019	GO0

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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

B3.6 Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

Rational for determination:

The Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth will provide $4,000,000 in Recovery Act funds to URV USA, LLC (URV) for research and equipment purchases in support of the company's efforts to establish a Michigan-based foundry to develop casting processes for building utility-scale wind turbine components. URV is located at 766 East Bluff Court, Rochester, MI 48307.

Recovery Act funding represents $4,000,000 of the approximate $54,000,000 total project cost. URV's portion of the investment includes the purchase of an existing facility and construction of an addition to the facility to house the new foundry. The new facility is located at 330 Hamman, Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The current building will be used for casting post processing and offices, whereas the new addition will house the foundry with required higher ceilings and very specific requirements for the handling of the furnaces and molten metal and pouring of castings.

Recovery Act funds will be used for the purchase of select equipment for the foundry operations, which include shake out and sand recovery, ventilation systems, and cranes. Additionally, Recovery Act funds will be used for R&D to support the development of the next generation materials and casting processes. The R&D aspects of the project include the involvement of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Michigan Technological University (MTU), and universities in Sweden and Finland. ORNL's role is to provide material characterization for the new casting process to be used in the foundry, including alloy composition selection, material processing analysis.

URV operations are internationally certified as ISO 14001. The casting process employed by URV requires significantly less material inputs compared with traditional foundries. Almost 100% of the sand used for castings is recycled. Metal-to-metal recovery from the gating system enables 14% more metal recovery than traditional methods.

URV is in compliance with federal and state environmental statutes. The current manufacturing process and foundry operations do not generate hazardous material/waste. The new foundry operations; however, may require a MDNRE Air Source Permit. The project team is in consultation with the State to determine the need and to initiate the application process if required. Based on consultation with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, the project is not likely to impact archaeological resources. A review of the Michigan Natural Features Inventory database and mapping indicates no protected plant or animal species within or adjacent to the project area. This project will have no impact to migratory birds or other protected species.

DOE has reviewed the entire scope of the URV project relative to the portion to be supported by Recovery Act funding and concluded that URV's prior decision to purchase the facility and expand into the foundry market was independent of its use of Recovery Act funds for R&D and the equipment it intends to purchase with the funds. Accordingly, based on the information provided by the State and recipient, DOE has determined that the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B3.6 and B5.1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
Provide assurance to the DOE project officer that Recovery Act funds are to support U.S.-based companies and research organizations.

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is $4,000,000. Absent a significant change in the scope of this effort, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 7/8/10

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