

PMC-EF2a

(20102)

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



RECIPIENT: Minnesota Department of Commerce SEP ARRA

STATE: MN

**PROJECT TITLE :** EMERGING RENEWABLES INDUSTRIES: Silent Power Manufacturing Expansion

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0000164	GFO-09-157-003	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:

**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.

## Rational for determination:

The State of Minnesota will provide \$560,000 of Recovery Act funds to Silent Power, Inc. to partially offset the cost of tools and equipment for an expanded workforce and added equipment for expanded shipping capacity. Silent Power is located at 8175 Industrial Park Rd, Baxter MN 56425.

Silent Power manufactures inverters and battery storage devices for renewable energy installations. The company anticipates a significant increase in demand for its grid-connected PV/battery storage product – OnDemand Energy Appliance - that combines a proprietary inverter technology with renewable power input, battery storage and remote interface to provide dispatchable renewable power for utility demand response applications. To meet the anticipated demand, Silent Power will use Recovery Act funds to expand its workforce, offset a declining portion of new employee costs, and partially offset the cost of tools and equipment for the expanded workforce.

The project will take place in the company's existing manufacturing facility located in the Baxter Industrial Park. The project will not increase the footprint of the facility, involve new construction, or require new operation permits. Equipment purchases include sheet metal assemblies, cabinets, electronic assemblies and sub-assemblies, controls and batteries. The project will not significantly impact the waste-streams generated from the plant operations, which consist of routine, nonhazardous material that can be disposed in municipal solid waste landfill.

Neither the Industrial Park or the manufacturing facility currently qualify for inclusion on the Historic Register.

Based on the information provided by the State and recipient, the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1 "Actions to Conserve Energy".

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is \$560,000. 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/28/10

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