PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

**RECIPIENT:** University of Texas-Pan American **STATE:** TX

**PROJECT TITLE :** Operation of Grid-tied 5kW dc solar array to develop Laboratory Experiments for Solar PV Energy System Courses

| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| DE-FOA-0000089 | DE-EE0004007 | GFO-0004007-001 | EE4007 |

**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.

**A9** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

Rational for determination:

The NEPA determination applies to DOE's decision to authorize the expenditure of federal funds for tasks that have already commenced and/or completed by the recipient and/or sub-recipients.
The University of Texas at Pan American in Edinburg, TX proposes to use federal funding for a completed project that included design and installation of a 5kW photovoltaic system on the roof of the Electrical Engineering building, a solar radiation tracking system to document and evaluate the efficiency of the system, installation of 6kW photovoltaic system on the roof of the International Trade and Technology building, and establishment of an engineering curriculum around the photovoltaic arrays and solar radiation tracking systems.
The Electrical Engineering building was constructed in 1996 and the International Trade and Technology building was constructed in 1998. Neither of these structures would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Structures. As such, the design and installation of the two PV systems are categorically excludable activities. The development of curriculum is an activity that is inherently categorically excludable from further NEPA review.
CX B5.1 and CX A9 apply to this completed project.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 10/25/2010

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kristin Kerr Date: 11/19/2010
NEPA Compliance Officer

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**