

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: University of South Florida

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE : Development of High Electronic Quality CdTe Films Required for 1 Volt Voc CdTe Cells

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number
DE-FOA-0000492

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-EE0005401

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0005401-001

CID Number
GO5401

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:

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 University South Florida is proposing to use DOE and cost share funding to conduct research and development activities in order to develop an understanding and demonstrate control of the doping process in thin films of CdTe solar cells.

All research and testing would occur in a laboratory environment within facilities at the University of South Florida Tampa Campus (USF). A R&D facility questionnaire has been submitted for this site. The facilities comply with standard laboratory safety procedures and labs are inspected periodically by university staff and safety personnel. The safety protocols are monitored by the University's Environmental Health and Safety Office. USF has a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) that outlines safety procedures and guidelines for their research laboratories. Externally, the EPA and DEP regulate and monitor the any hazardous waste generated and accumulated in the laboratory.

DOE has determined that impacts to the natural and human environments are expected to be negligible and that this project is consistent with actions covered under DOE CX B3.6 (bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations) and therefore is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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 :

Completed by Laura Margason 10.28.2011

Total Project cost: \$1,071,974 (\$987,717 DOE share)

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

Kushin Kler
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

11/1/2011

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: _____

DOE has determined that impacts to the natural and human environments are expected to be negligible and that this project is consistent with actions covered under DOE CX 88.6 (bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations) and therefore is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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As research and testing would occur in a laboratory environment within facilities at the University of South Florida Tampa Campus (USF). A RAD facility questionnaire has been submitted for this site. The facilities comply with standard laboratory safety procedures and are inspected periodically by university staff and safety personnel. The safety protocols are monitored by the University's Environmental Health and Safety Office. USF has a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) that outlines safety procedures and guidelines for their research laboratories. Externally, the EPA and DFR regulate and monitor the any hazardous waste generated and accumulated in the laboratory.

The University of South Florida is proposing to use DOE and cost share funding to conduct research and development activities in order to develop an understanding and demonstrate control of the copying process in thin film CoTe solar cells.

NEPA PROVISION
DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this work.