PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: eSolar, Inc. **STATE:** CA

PROJECT TITLE : Modular & Scalable Baseload Molten Salt Plant Conceptual Design & Feasibility Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000104	DE-EE0003595	GFO-10-464	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:

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).

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:

DOE is proposing to provide funding to the recipient in to design, build, and test a full-scale molten salt power plant module that would include an advanced molten salt receiver, a distributed molten salt transport system, a thermal storage system, and a molten salt steam generator.

This NEPA determination applies to Phase 1 and Phase 2 only. A subsequent NEPA review is required prior to the procurement of long lead items, final design, site preparation and construction activities.

Phase 1 includes feasibility studies and conceptual design activities as well as materials and component R&D testing. CX A9 and B3.6 apply.

Phase 2 includes engineering design and site selection activities as well as a continuation of the materials and component R&D testing. CX A9 and B3.6 apply.

The recipient shall submit an EF-1 to DOE when the site has been selected.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

This NEPA determination applies to Phase 1 and Phase 2 only. A subsequent NEPA review is required prior to the procurement of long lead items, final design, site preparation and construction activities.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Phase 1 and 2 activities.

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
The recipient shall submit an EF-1 to DOE when the site has been selected and sufficient information is available for DOE to make a NEPA determination for Phase 3.

Note to Specialist :

Because this is a conditional NEPA determination, it is recommended that the the recipient be put on ASAP Approval.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kristin Kerwin Date: 9/7/2010
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