PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

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

**RECIPIENT:** SEMATECH, Inc

**STATE:** NY

**PROJECT TITLE :** U.S. PV Manufacturing Consortium (PVMC)- Enabling America's Solar Revolution

| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| DE-FOA-0000259 | DE-EE0004947 | GFO-0004947-001 | 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.

**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 federal funding to Semetec to create and coordinate the U.S. Photovoltaic Manufacturing Consortium (PVMC), a multi-faceted industry-driven collaborative intended to accelerate the coordination of stakeholders and fund technology development efforts across the solar industry and facilitate the development of a strong PV manufacturing industry and supply chain in the U.S. The PVMC will work in partnership with the University of Central Florida on separate but related research initiatives. DOE is concurrently completing a NEPA determination for the scope of work to be completed by University of Central Florida (GFO-0004947-002). This NEPA determination (GFO-0004947-001) applies to the work to be completed by the PVMC at the University of Albany and the Veeco Solar Process Development Center.

Semetec (via the PVMC) proposes to use federal funding to develop roadmaps, standards, a workforce training initiative, and related programs, and assemble a PV manufacturing development facility as well as development of balance of system programs for related systems with the overall intent to increase the U.S. PV manufacturing market share.

Semetec (via the PVMC) would use DOE and cost-share funds to purchase and install PV manufacturing equipment in portions of two laboratory facilities at the University of Albany College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering's Albany NanoTech Complex (ANT). Laboratories and cleanrooms in the NanoFab Annex (AFX) and the Zero Energy (ZEN) laboratory facilities would be built-out and configured to support the PVMC research initiatives. The AFX facility is currently being constructed and the ZEN facility is in the design phase. The design and construction of these laboratory facilities is not part of the DOE funded project and will be completed regardless of the DOE funded project activities. Therefore, DOE has determined that both facilities have independent utility beyond the proposed PVMC project activities and therefore the construction of the facilities is not subject to NEPA review.

Research and development activities will also be conducted at Veeco Solar Process Development Center, and existing permitted PV research facility in Clifton Park, NY.

This project comprises information gathering and dissemination, research and development activities, and the

assembly of facilities for indoor research and development projects, and actions to conserve energy and promote energy-efficiency. As a whole the PVMC and the University of Central Florida projects are categorically excludable from further NEPA review. As such, CX A9, B3.6 and B5.1 apply.

**NEPA PROVISION**

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 9/1/2011

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