

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

STATE: VA

PROJECT TITLE : Solar Utility Network Deployment Acceleration

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000865	DE-EE0006333	GFO-0006333-001	

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:

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to accelerate electric cooperatives' solar photovoltaic (PV) deployment through technical assistance, standardized designs, streamlined financing, packaged insurance, best practices, in-depth training and outreach. Project activities would be limited to site visits, interviews, data collection and analysis, report writing, and training.

The project would focus on embedding grid integration and planning practices and training for new solar distributed generation assets. DOE funds and cost share would not be used for purchasing PV equipment and/or PV deployments. The funds would be used to provide technical designs, models, technical assistance, and training specific to PV deployments funded by electric cooperatives that plan to provide partial cost share to the project. Prime and sub-recipients including participating cooperatives are restricted from using federal funds under this funding opportunity announcement to purchase PV hardware, equipment, or pay for labor, or installations.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the information gathering and technical advice activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and A11 "technical advice and assistance to organizations," and 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 :

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Kelly Daigle 8/12/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/15/2013

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: _____