

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Pepco Holdings Inc.

STATE: DC

PROJECT
TITLE : Model-Based Integrated High Penetration Renewables Planning and Control Analysis

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000865	DE-EE0006328	GFO-0006328-001	GO6328

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.

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Pepco Holdings Inc., to coordinate and standardize a number of critical and innovative design, control, analysis and data management capabilities with a focus on making high penetrations of photovoltaic a fully integrated part of utility strategic planning, operations management and supervisory level monitoring and control practices. DOE funding would be used for modeling software to simulate voltage regulation solutions for distribution feeders. Some field demonstration work would occur in which automatic line equipment settings are adjusted and possibly moved to more ideal locations on distribution feeders. All equipment adjustments or modifications would be minor in scope and occur within existing facilities.

This award would accelerate PV maturity at electric CoOps through standard designs, insurance, financing and training. DOE funds and cost share will 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 FOA 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," A11 "technical advice and assistance to organizations," and B3.6 "small-scale research and development," 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 8/26/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/26/2013

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: _____