

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Soitec Solar Industries LLC

STATE: NV

PROJECT
TITLE : SUNPATH SANFAB

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000566	DE-EE0005739	GFO-0005739-002	GO5739

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:

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems	The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.
---	--

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Soitec Solar Industries to develop a concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) module factory with an annual production capacity of 280MW DC at an existing facility in San Diego, CA and install three CPV tracker assemblies in Henderson, Nevada. DOE funding would be used for the installation and validation of the CPV tracker assemblies.

DOE completed a previous NEPA review (GFO-0005739-001 CX A9, B1.31, B5.1 6/21/2012) which included the development of a CPV module factory in San Diego, California. This determination applies to the deployment of three 100 kW CPV tracker assemblies at the River Mountains Water Treatment Facility in Henderson, Nevada. The River Mountains Water Treatment Facility, located at 1299 Burkholder Blvd., Henderson, Nevada, is a water treatment plant, treating 300 million gallons per day of water to supply the Las Vegas valley. In conjunction with the treatment plant, various renewable energy facilities have been developed with approximate capacity of 400 kW. The land was granted to Southern Nevada Water Authority from the Bureau of Reclamation. The facility was placed into service in October 2002 and has undergone a few additions including a solar facility, located in the northeast section of the property. The proposed installation area is adjacent to the existing solar facility and is previously disturbed and fenced in. The trackers would be 48' feet wide and 24' feet high, with a total installed system height of no greater than 30' feet. The modules would be bolted to a structure or tracker. The foundations for the structure would be three 40 inch diameter concrete caisson, 18 feet deep. The proposed project would result in around 850 linear feet of trenching. The disturbed area during construction would be approximately 15,000 square feet. The final foot print would be 5430 square feet.

The proposed project would not generate any hazardous waste from the installation or operation of the solar tracker units. The units would not utilize hydraulic motors for rotation, but rather an electric drive motor. The solar modules would be sealed within glass and would not contain any hazardous substances or any type of universal waste such as cadmium telluride.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species website identifies five species within Clark County, Nevada: Yuma clapper rail, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern willow flycatcher, Las Vegas buckwheat and the Desert tortoise. The Yuma clapper rail, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Southwestern willow flycatcher inhabit areas dominated by fresh-water marshes, open woodland and dense riparian areas. The area of proposed installation is a desert environment with no forested or riparian habitat in the surrounding vicinity. The area is previously disturbed and surrounded by a fence that prevents the intrusion of the Desert tortoise or Las Vegas buckwheat. DOE has determined that the solar installations would have minimal ground disturbance at a previously disturbed site in a desert environment and is not likely to adversely affect the resources in the area. The proposed scope of work would not have any adverse impacts to cultural resources, floodplains or wetlands, as these resources are not known to occur at the proposed site.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the installation of three concentrated PV systems would not have significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that the work outlined is consistent with the actions identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.16 "solar photovoltaic systems" and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX B5.16.

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 :

Kelly Daigle 8/5/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/9/2013

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: _____