

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



RECIPIENT: AccuSolar

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE : U.S. Floating Solar Manufacturing Innovations for Improved Cost and Performance

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002437	DE-EE0009641	GFO-0009641-001	

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), 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.)

B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located 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 is proposing to provide funding to AccuSolar in support of a project intended to finalize and validate a new design concept for floating solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in an effort to reduce costs during manufacturing as well as installation and anchoring. The project would be completed over three Budget Periods (BPs). During BP1 the project would focus on system and component design exploration and finalization, modeling and analysis of fabrication, installation, and operational costs and value and identifying test sites for deployment and validation in BP2 and BP3. BP2 would include fabrication, installation and commissioning of test sites and validation and improvements of cost models and system design. BP3 would focus on monitoring and data collection as well as development of a manufacturing plan and supply chain definition.

Sufficient information is not currently available to conduct a meaningful NEPA review of BP2 and BP3 activities. This NEPA Determination is applicable to BP1 only. Additional BOE NEPA review is required and must be complete prior to initiating BP2 and/or BP3 activities.

BP1 activities would include system design, engineering analysis, techno-economic analysis, fabrication of a sub-scale system prototype, stakeholder engagement, and test site investigation. Activities would be conducted at existing facilities in Pompano Beach, Florida. No field work or site preparation would occur during BP1. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern as a result of BP1 activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

[Budget Period 1 - All tasks.](#)

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

[Budget Period 2 - All tasks.](#)

[Budget Period 3 - All tasks.](#)

Notes:

[Solar Energy Technologies Office](#)

[This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision](#)

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: [Kristin Kerwin](#)
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/12/2021

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____