

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: IBACOS, Inc

STATE: PA

PROJECT TITLE: Optimized Comfort Systems for Low Load Homes

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number
 DE-FOA-0001117

Procurement Instrument Number
 DE-EE0007058

NEPA Control Number
 GFO-0007058-001

CID Number
 GO7058

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.
- B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring** Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools); (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes); (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to IBACOS, Inc. to develop a streamlined and simplified residential air delivery system that will reduce air distribution and comfort delivery issues associated with low-load production-built homes.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include project management and reporting, market engagement, lab testing of small-scale mockups, cost analysis, performance simulations, data collection, design and industry engagement. All activities excluding data collection would be completed from IBACOS, Inc.'s office and lab facilities on Liberty Ave. in

Pittsburgh, PA Observation and collection of field performance measurements would occur at an unoccupied lab home on Wedgewood Dr., also in Pittsburgh, PA. Both locations were designed for this type of usage; therefore, no modifications to, or new permits, licenses or authorizations would be required to perform project activities.

Existing ductwork and space conditioning equipment would be replaced with the new test system in order to collect data at the lab home. This would require the use of common hand and power tools. Additionally, there may be a need to replace the outdoor condensing unit, and/or add or replace the refrigerant within the system. Existing lab and warehouse safety protocols would be observed at all times. Materials expected to be utilized for completion of the proposed project include common wood framing materials and duct materials. Waste generated from this use would be disposed of through the municipal waste system.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination", A11 "Technical advice and assistance to organizations", and B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring" and is therefore 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 :

Building Technologies Office

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord on 06/15/2015

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/22/2015

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: _____