

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:**SafeConnect Solar**STATE:** HI**PROJECT TITLE** Reducing Soft Costs Through Hardware Innovation - Phase 2

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001225	DE-EE0007199	GFO-0007199-001	

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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to SafeConnect Solar to develop their SmartBox; a two-part hardware/software system that engineers safety compliance into the PV system itself, thereby eliminating the need for rules and regulations designed to safeguard public health and safety.

Proposed activities include design, fabrication, and in-lab and field testing of SafeConnect's Smartbox and the associated cabling and connectors. The proposed activities also include working with Underwriters Laboratory (UL) for project certification, and working with Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to determine and define permitting requirements for the SmartBox. Additionally, the proposed activities include the development and testing of an online software marketing and system design platform to assist with sales of the SmartBox.

Project administration, design and design review (Tasks 1, and Subtasks 2.1 and 2.1) would be completed at SafeConnect's offices in Honolulu, HI. Locations where fabrication, and in-lab and field testing activities would occur have yet to be determined and therefore cannot be reviewed at this time. These locations would be defined upon completion of Task 1 and Subtasks 2.1 and 2.2. Any activities outside of Task 1 and Subtasks 2.1 and 2.2 will be subject to additional NEPA review prior to the authorization of federal funds for those tasks.

The proposed project activities associated with Task 1 and Subtasks 2.1 and 2.2 would be limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would use no physical materials beyond basic office supplies and software. 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" and is therefore categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment

or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Subtask 2.3 - Construction Review

Subtask 2.4 - Testing According to Standards Identified by UL

Subtask 2.5 - Obtain Notice of Authorization

Subtask 2.6 - Assist With Development of New Standards/Criteria

Subtask 2.7 - UL Testing of Firmware

Task 3 - Hardware Production

Task 4 - Engage Customers & Partners

Task 5 - Authority Having Jurisdictions (AHJ) Investigation, Engagement, and

Task 6 - Develop Web-Based Marketing Platform

Task 7 - Protect and Manage Intellectual Property

Task 8 - Operations and Project Coordination

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Task 1 - Design of SmartBox, Cabling, and Connectors

Subtask 2.1 - Initial Product Inspection

Subtask 2.2 - Component Review

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Solar Energy Technologies Office

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord 09/11/2015.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/14/2015

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: