

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Pacific International Center for High Technology Research**STATE:** HI**PROJECT TITLE**
: Hawaii Renewable Energy Development Venture

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
Project 15 - Autowatts	DE-FG36-08GO88146	GFO-0088146-022	GO88146

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR) to fund Autowatts to perform business development activities through the Excelsior Program. Specifically, Autowatts has created an integrated solar platform so that residential homeowners can analyze the benefits of solar systems. The objective of the project would be to fully understand the market opportunity and its general commercial application. Autowatts would focus on a comprehensive customer discovery effort including the development of a specific go-to-market plan.

Autowatts is a sub recipient within the PICHTR award, DE-FG36-08GO88146. PICHTR administers the Energy Excelsior Program which has a previously NEPA determination NEPA (GFO-GO88146-009, CX A9, A11, B5.1, 3/27/2013). This is a new project within the program.

The proposed project activities would include customer discovery activities such as validating core assumptions about potential customers and stakeholders; developing questions to understand the market and market economics; customer delivery meetings; customer delivery evaluation and strategic planning; participating in Energy Excelsior activities; participating in outreach and social media activities, and reporting on progress. The proposed project would be limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would use no physical materials beyond basic office supplies and software.

Based on a review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that 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 exclusion A9 "Information gathering, analysis and dissemination" and A11 "technical advice and planning assistance" 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 the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project

Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Bioenergy Technologies Office

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA Review completed by Diana Heyder, 1/22/16

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 1/28/2016

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: _____