

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Alencon Acquisitions Co., LLC/Attn: MARK HOGAN

STATE: PA

PROJECT TITLE : Extreme Cost Reductions with Multi-Megawatt Centralized Inverter Systems

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000479	DE-EE0005343	GFO-0005343-003	G05343

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.)
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 Alencon Acquisitions Co. (Alencon) to complete system testing and certification, system integration, field validation testing, production design and customer engagement for a new type of transformational utility scale photovoltaic (PV) system.

DOE made previous NEPA determinations (GFO-0005343-001, CX A9, B3.6 12/15/2011; GFO-0005343-002, CX A9, B3.6 10/11/2012) for Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities which included system design specifications, prototype development, and final lab demonstration of a high voltage DC-DC converter. This NEPA determination applies to Phase 3, which includes the final stage of development and the full integration of the harvesting and inverter system.

Business and administrative operations as well as research and development activities would take place at Alencon Office and Lab, located at 330 S. Warminster Rd., Suite 380, Hatboro, Pennsylvania. Alencon completed an environmental questionnaire addressing the protocols for laboratory and facility safety, risk management and waste disposal.

Product marketing, customer engagement and customer demonstrations would occur under this award. Customers would be invited to live demonstrations of the inverter system and customer input would be solicited. For field validation testing, a 25 kW and 400 kW solar PV system would be installed on the roof of the Alencon Office Building, located at 330 S. Warminster Rd., Suite 380, Hatboro, Pennsylvania. The building is approximately 70 feet tall and the roof is approximately 500,000 square feet. Both systems would sit at a height of around 1.5 feet above the roof on the North side. The 25 kW system would not be grid connected. The 400 kW system would be grid connected and require a local interconnection agreement. The 400 kW system would be comprised of 1,400 300 watt multi-crystalline PV modules covering around 40,000 square feet of roof space. Both systems would not be visible from the ground and no historic properties are in the immediate vicinity.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Websites lists one threatened or endangered species for Montgomery County, PA, the Indiana Bat. DOE has determined that solar PV installation would have no adverse affect on the Indiana Bat or its habitat.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined research and development, customer outreach and solar PV installations 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 A9, "information gathering," and B5.16 "solar photovoltaic systems" and is 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:

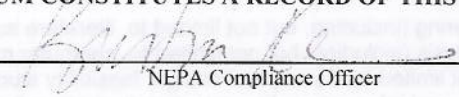
If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Kelly Daigle 2/26/2014

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 2/26/2014
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager