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PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Electric Power Research Institute

STATE: TN

PROJECT TITLE : Demonstration of Smart Grid Ready Inverters with Utility Communication

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000479	DE-EE0005337	GFO-0005337-003	

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 Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to develop, implement, and demonstrate smart-grid ready inverters with grid support functionality and required communication links to capture the full value of distributed photovoltaic (PV) technology.

DOE completed two previous NEPA reviews (GFO-0005337-001 CX A9, B3.6 and GFO-0005337-002 CX A9, B3.6, B5.1 11/9/2011 and 4/26/2013, respectively) which included Phase I research and development work, and Phase II (Year 1) demonstration of inverters at EPRI partner sites. This NEPA determination applies to Phase II (Year 2) activities only.

During Phase II (Year 2), DOE funding would be used by Electric Power Research Institute to deploy newly developed PV inverters and establish a utility communication link at four demonstration sites - DTE Energy Fuller PV Site (Fuller Road, Ann Arbor MI), National Grid Everett PV Site (Robin Street, Everett, MA), National Grid Haverhill PV Site (Hilldale Avenue, Haverhill, MA), and Pepco site PV system (Factory Road, Cedarville, NJ). The project would demonstrate and document grid-support functionality of the PV inverters and utility control through a distributed energy resources (DER) distribution management system (DMS). Phase II (Year 2) activities would occur at sites with existing solar PV systems and would require no additional licensing and/or permitting. The technology being tested would not alter the visual characteristics of the existing solar PV systems; therefore, no visual impacts are expected as a result of the proposed project.

Based on a 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 the environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "Information gathering, analysis and dissemination" and B5.16 "Solar photovoltaic systems" 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 :

Review completed by Logan Sholar 8/5/2014.

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray / Lori Gray Date: 8/6/2014
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