

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Energetics Inc.**STATE:** CO**PROJECT TITLE** : Solar Decathlon Program Administrator

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-EE0001371	DE-EE0007353	GFO-0007353-001	

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 Energetics, Inc. for the administration of the Solar Decathlon 2017 and 2019. The Solar Decathlon encourages collegiate teams from across the United States to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost effective, energy-efficient, and attractive.

The Solar Decathlon is a two-year program that culminates with an on-site competition between each university team that submits a home for the competition. The first year is centered on design while the second year involves materials selection, construction and fundraising. After construction is completed on campus, the houses are disassembled and transported to the event site where they are reassembled and made ready for the competition. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency. This team would be awarded a \$300,000 prize. After the competition is over the teams and organizers have five days for disassembly. Competition participants are as follows:

- École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Lausanne, Switzerland)
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Daytona State College (Daytona Beach, Florida)
- Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, Georgia)
- HU University of Applied Science Utrecht (Utrecht, Netherlands)
- Missouri University of Science and Technology (Rolla, Missouri)
- Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois)
- Rice University (Houston, Texas)
- Syracuse University (Syracuse, New York)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham (Birmingham, Alabama)
- University of California at Berkeley (Berkeley, California)
- University of California, Davis (Davis, California)
- University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland)
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Las Vegas, Nevada)
- Washington State University (Pullman, Washington)
- Washington University (St. Louis, Missouri)
- West Virginia University (Morgantown, West Virginia).

The project plan has been broken down into two Budget Periods (BP). BP1 pertains to Solar Decathlon 2017 (SD17) and BP2 pertains to Solar Decathlon 2019 (SD19). As plans for implementing SD19 would be based in large part on lessons learned from SD17 this NEPA review will apply only to BP1. Any activities associated with BP2 will be subject to further NEPA review once they are more clearly defined.

BP1 outlines activities associated with SD17 and has been broken down into four tasks:

- Task 1: Project Management
- Task 2: Planning SD17
- Task 3: Implement SD17
- Task 4: SD17 Project Close-out

Tasks 1, 2, and 4 are limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would require no physical materials beyond basic office supplies and software. Task 3 would involve construction of competition homes on-campus at each University and again at the Pena Blvd. light rail stop in Denver, CO, although the logistics and site-specific information of SD17 Site will not be finalized until early 2017. Therefore, information available at this time regarding Task 3 of BP1 is not sufficient to facilitate a meaningful review of those activities. Further NEPA review will be necessary before any activities associated with Tasks 3 and 4 may be undertaken.

The DOE has determined that intellectual, academic, or analytical activities associated with BP1 activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and is 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:

- Budget Period 1
- Task 3: Implement SD17
- Task 4: SD17 Project Close-out

- Budget Period 2
- All Tasks

This restriction does not preclude you from:

- Budget Period 1
- Task 1: Project Management
- Task 2: Planning SD17

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 :

Office of Strategic Programs
This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Rebecca McCord, April 20, 2016

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Electronically
Signed By:

Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 5/2/2016