

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Home Innovation Research Labs, Inc.

STATE: MD

PROJECT TITLE: Structural Support of Windows in Walls with Continuous Insulation

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001395	DE-EE0007574	GFO-0007574-001	GO7574

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.)
- B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects** Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

## Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Home Innovation Research Labs, Inc. (HIRL) to collect performance information and establish acceptance criteria for evaluating the structural performance of windows in walls with continuous insulation.

This study proposes a comprehensive testing program for full-scale walls with windows under various types of loading including wind pressure and gravity loads. The focus of the project would be placed on capturing the performance of a broad range of window types/configurations and foam sheathing types/thicknesses. Activities associated with the proposed project would include data collection, development of a performance test matrix, establishment of performance criteria; fabrication and in-lab testing of full-sized sections of walls with windows; and development of window installation solutions, specifications, best practices, and design guidance. These activities would be undertaken at HIRL's research lab facility in Marlboro, MD. The facility in which lab work would occur is purpose-built for the type of activities being proposed; therefore, no adverse impacts to sensitive resources are expected as a result of the proposed project. No change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort. The facility has all applicable permits in place and would not need additional permits for the proposed activities.

The proposed activities would not necessitate the use, handling, or storage of any hazardous materials. Existing lab safety protocols would be observed at all times and those responsible for fabrication and in-lab testing activities would be required to wear personal protective equipment. Wastes generated would be limited to building materials such as nails/screws, lumber, and insulation which would be disposed of through normal municipal waste streams or recycled when appropriate.

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 B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects" 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 :

Building Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord on 05/31/2016

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/2/2016

**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: