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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER NEPA DETERMINATION

STATE: GA

RECIPIENT:Georgia Tech Applied Research Corporation

PROJECT Solar, Install, Mount, Production, Labor, Equipment (SIMPLE BoS) TITLE :

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number Procurement Instrument Number NEPA Control Number CID Number GFO-0005441-002 GO5441 DE-FOA-0000493 DE-EE0005441

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:

B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy and pilot projects

Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered research and development 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.

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Georgia Tech Applied Research Corporation (GTARC) to conduct pre-commercial development and deployment activities for a solar photovoltaic (PV) balance of system (BOS) design. DOE funding would be used to design, fabricate and test a prototype that would reduce the racking and mounting hardware costs.

DOE made a previous NEPA determination, GFO-0005441-001 (CX A9, B3.6, 11/9/2011), for the design, fabrication and testing of the prototype solar PV BOS design. DOE restricted installation and demonstration activities.

This NEPA determination applies to Budget Period 2 (BP2). In BP2, GTARC would develop and manufacture the precommercial design to 60% readiness and conduct laboratory and field tests through installation of demonstration systems.

Development and deployment activities would be conducted at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) located at 640 Strong Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30318. Prototype panels and racking would be constructed and housed indoors. No facilities would be modified. GTARC would test PV arrays of 5kW or less and have an approximate dimension of less than 500 square feet. The maximum number of all deployed units would be 200 panels of 38 kW. The university has completed an R&D questionnaire addressing the protocols in place for laboratory safety, risk management, chemical handling and waste disposal. The facility complies with standard laboratory safety procedures and labs are inspected by university staff and safety personnel. The university operates under all applicable permits to conduct research.

At this time, outdoor deployment and Budget Period 3 (BP3) have not been defined to the extent that DOE can conduct a NEPA review. This NEPA determination does not apply to outdoor deployment and BP3 (Tasks 5 and 6) and both are subject to further NEPA review prior to the authorization of federal funds.

DOE has determined that the indoor development and deployment of prototype PV panels and racking in BP2 are consistent with actions defined in DOE categorical exclusion B5.15, "small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects."

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.

https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/GONEPA/EF2a_Form.aspx?key=14242 10/15/2012

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/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include: Outdoor deployment Budget Period 3, Tasks 5 and 6 This restriction does not preclude you from:

Indoor development and deployment as defined in Budget Period 2

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 :

Kelly Daigle 9/24/2012

DOE Share: \$997,070 Cost Share: \$997,070 Total Project Cost: \$1,994,140

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSȚITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Compliance Officer

Date: 10/15/2012

Date:

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

No legitice sends be modified. GTARS would test PV series of 55W or less and have an dispositivate dimension of test than 300 square lest. The maximum symbol of all deployed with would be 200 panets of 38 kW. The university has constanted an PSD quantionalia addressing the protocols in grass for leboratory setiety, risk multi-grament, dramitat frandfing and words deposed. The leading complete with standard televatory setiety procedures and lebo an haspaced by university staff and satisfy personnel. The university operates under all applicable permits to conduct negotied by university staff and satisfy personnel. The university operates under all applicable permits to conduct maximum.

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DOE has determined the the tector devictorment and deployment of protectops PV panets and rectory in BP2 are consistent with exclose definies in DOE energicited workering EX 15, "antel-ecole renewable energy research and recording with protection with a construction EX 15, "antel-ecole renewable energy research and recording to protection with a construction."

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