

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:**Southface Energy Institute**STATE:** GA

PROJECT
TITLE : Advanced Commercial Buildings Initiative

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000829	DE-EE0006290	GFO-0006290-001	GO6290

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.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination:

Southface Energy Institute is proposing to use DOE funding toward the Advanced Commercial Building Initiative; a nationwide program that provides tools, education, technical assistance and financing options for owners, operators and developers of commercial buildings. Southface would use the funding to develop modeling tools and protocols that would improve energy assessments and reduce market barriers for financing and program implementation.

Activities conducted as part of this project would involve desk-top research, data collection/analysis, technical advice to cities and non-profits, and building efficiency assessments. Building assessments would involve the temporary installation of various monitoring hardware to gather real-time data on occupancy and energy usage for commercial buildings in the South-east region of the U.S. These actions would take place at existing commercial buildings and be conducted indoors. The temporary and minimal disturbance related to the action would have negligible impacts to the

building or human environment therein.

Under Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) number DE-FOA-0000829, the recipient is prohibited from conducting retrofits on buildings of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by federal, state or local governments, property located within or immediately adjacent to a historic district, property 50 years or older, or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Based on the above information and supplemental documentation, DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions covered under DOE CX A9 (information gathering, data analysis, document preparation and dissemination, and computer modeling), CX A11 (technical assistance), and CX B5.1 (Actions to demonstrate energy conservation); and therefore 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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

The recipient is prohibited from conducting retrofits on buildings of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by federal, state or local governments, property located within or immediately adjacent to a historic district, property 50 years or older, or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Any project involving ground-breaking activities, new construction, or projects involving the installation of outside equipment are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE prior to initiating these activities and prior to the expenditure of project funds.

Note to Specialist :

NEPA review completed by Laura Margason on August 15, 2013.

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Electronically
Signed By: Lori Gray

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/16/2013

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: