U.S. Department of Energy
Finding of No Significant Impact
BP Solar Array Project

Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, New York

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY:

The U.S. Department of Energy conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA), DOE/EA-1663 that analyzed the potential impacts associated with construction and operation of a BP Solar Array Project at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). All discussion, analysis and findings related to the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed project are documented in the Final EA. The Final EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

The proposed project involves DOE granting an easement to BP Solar to construct two large-scale commercial solar photovoltaic arrays of approximately 18.5 MW each and would cover approximately 200 acres (80.94 hectares) of the BNL federal site. Electricity generated by these arrays would be connected into the regional utility power grid. In addition, a Laboratory dedicated array of 1 to 2 MW would potentially be constructed and connected to the on-site BNL electric grid. The arrays would utilize, where possible, areas already cleared (agricultural fields, firebreaks, and brownfields), as well as require clearing of an estimated 153 acres (62 hectares) of trees. A building to support the Laboratory dedicated array may also be constructed.

In accordance with applicable regulations and policies, DOE sent the draft EA to New York State, in particular the New York State Governor's Office and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for review and comment. Additional copies were sent to interested agencies for information only. Comments from all parties were considered and addressed where appropriate in the final EA.

DETERMINATION:

Based on the information and analysis in the EA, the DOE has determined that the proposal to construct and operate the BP Solar Array Project at BNL does not constitute a federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Therefore, a FONSI is made and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Public Availability:

Copies of this EA are available from:

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On the DOE web site at:

http://www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA/DOE_NEPA-documents.htm

For further information regarding the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, contact:

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