

**NEPA Determination for the
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
Application submitted by the Chippewa Tribe of MN on behalf of the Grand Portage Band
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy**


The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, appropriates funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) to issue/award formula-based grants to states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. DOE's authorization for this program is set forth in Title V, Subtitle E, of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. This CX determination is applicable to DOE elements reviewing and awarding formula-based and competitive grants under the EECBG Program, and includes, but is not limited to, EECBG Program activities under the purview of DOE-HQ Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, DOE Golden Field Office, and the DOE Oak Ridge Office. Development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation strategies would be conducted by various states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes.

The Grand Portage Band would develop an energy conservation strategy which examines the feasibility of deployment of technologies for energy production utilizing renewable sources including but not limited to biomass and wind to reduce the use of fossil fuels and their associated harmful emissions. The project would focus on the future development of renewable sources of energy production to be installed in non-gaming Tribal government facilities including the Tribal Administrative Headquarters, Community Center, Natural Resources Office, Human Services Center and Health Clinic. Professional consultant(s) would work cooperatively with Tribal Planning, Environmental, Natural Resources, Cultural and other staff in the course of the project. Progress would be reported on a regular basis to the Tribal Council, and when determined necessary, a public hearing would be held to inform the community of project findings.

The application submitted and the technical review for this proposal do not reveal any extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211. The proposed development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation strategies funded by this grant would not result in an adverse effect to historic properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), would not impact sensitive resources [e.g., threatened and endangered (T/E) species, wetlands and floodplains].

A1, A9 and A11 are the applicable CXs that cover the proposed action in the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix A.

Based on my review of the above description, I have determined that the above actions are categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation. The DOE Contracting Officer Representative is responsible for oversight of the application of this determination.



Jane R. Summerson, NEPA Compliance Officer



Date