

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



RECIPIENT: Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

STATE: MI

PROJECT TITLE : Solar Energy Demonstration Using Domestically Sourced, and Michigan-built, 100% Reusable Commercial-Scale Lead Battery

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-EE0011450

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0011450-001

CID Number
GO11450

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

B4.14 Construction and operation of electrochemical-battery or flywheel energy storage systems

Construction, operation, upgrade, or decommissioning of an electrochemical-battery or flywheel energy storage system within a previously disturbed or developed area or within a small (as discussed at 10 CFR 1021.410(g)(2)) area contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and the integral elements listed at the start of appendix B of this part, and would incorporate appropriate safety standards (including the current National Fire Protection Association 855, Standard for the Installation of Energy Storage Systems), design and construction standards, control technologies, and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide Congressionally Directed Spending to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) for the installation of a 1.15 megawatt battery energy storage system (BESS) at the GTRLC Headquarters in Traverse City, Michigan.

The BESS would be housed in three 8 feet by 10 feet storage containers and placed on concrete pads immediately adjacent to an existing 185 kilowatt solar photovoltaic array. The concrete pads would measure 10 feet by 36 feet and require excavation of up to three feet in depth. Installation would also include trenching for conduits and wiring, as well as the replacement of existing cables and inverters. All activities, including equipment staging, would occur on previously disturbed ground.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website identifies four species of concern (Rufa Red Knot, Eastern Massasauga, Monarch Butterfly, and Pitcher's Thistle) which may occur in the proposed project area. There is no critical habitat in the project area. Project activities would occur in a developed area where there is ongoing human activity; therefore, species of concern are not likely to be present. DOE has determined no effect on special status species.

All necessary permits would be obtained prior to commencing activities. Potential hazards include typical hazards associated with construction, mechanical, and electrical work. Award recipients would adhere to established health and safety policies and procedures when performing project work, and would observe all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

For Categorical Exclusion Determinations:

- The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions

that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.

- There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.
- The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Should archaeological materials be observed during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity shall stop, and the area shall be secured. The appropriate State and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the DOE Project Officer shall be contacted immediately in order to help assess the situation and determine how to preserve the resource(s). Compliance with all applicable laws pertaining to archaeological resources is required.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office
NEPA review completed by Andrew McClellan, 6 February 2025

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Electronically Signed By: Nicole Serio Date: 2/6/2026
NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- ☒ Field Office Manager review not required
☐ Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager