

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



RECIPIENT: Blackfeet Community College

STATE: MT

PROJECT TITLE : Blackfeet Community College Transition to Clean Energy Project

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0002978

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-IE0000200

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0000200-002

CID Number
GO200

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:

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems

(a) The installation, modification, operation, or decommissioning of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems:

1. Located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, or mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences); or
2. Located within a previously disturbed or developed area.

(b) 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 be consistent with applicable plans for the management of wildlife and habitat, including plans to maintain habitat connectivity, and incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Blackfeet Community College (BCC) to install three roof mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, totaling 148 kilowatts, on the BCC campus.

A previous NEPA Determination (ND) was completed (GFO-0000200-001: exclusions A9 and B5.16, signed 7/2/2024) which evaluated the installation of two rooftop PV arrays on BCC's campus, one at the maintenance and storage facility and one at the land grant meat processing facility. This ND evaluates the proposed installation of additional rooftop PV arrays on the BCC's Yellow Bird Woman building and Beaver Painted Lodge. The solar array originally proposed for the maintenance and storage facility would be descoped from the project. No changes would be made to the proposed land grant meat processing facility installation, or the scale of the project overall.

Project activities would consist of grant management, design, engineering, developing an interconnection agreement, preparation, community engagement, installation training, commissioning, interconnection, monitoring, verification of energy savings, and grant closeout. Rooftop solar PV arrays would be installed on two existing campus facilities, the Yellow Bird Woman building and Beaver Painted Lodge. Both properties are on tribal trust land of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and neither is eligible for nor listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Consultation with the Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) was initiated on 12/19/25 for Yellow Bird Woman Lodge, Beaver Painted Lodge, and the meat processing facility. On 12/19/25, THPO determined "no findings of cultural significance" for each of the three buildings.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website identifies three species of concern (Grizzly Bear, Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee, and Monarch Butterfly) which may occur in the proposed project area. There is no critical habitat in the project area. Project activities would occur in a developed, urban area where these species are unlikely to be present. DOE has determined no effect on special status species.

No ground disturbance would occur as PV systems would be connected to their respective buildings' existing electric systems. Minimal air emissions may result from the use of equipment during system installation. However, significant

air impacts are not anticipated since emissions would be temporary and intermittent. No tree cutting or trimming would occur. Impacts on wetlands and floodplains are not anticipated as all work would occur on existing buildings and would not involve ground disturbance.

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

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
NEPA review completed by Andrew McClellan, 11 February 2025

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically
Signed By: **Nicole Serio**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/12/2026

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: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____