

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



RECIPIENT: Southern Company Services, Inc

STATE: MS

PROJECT TITLE: Deep Integration of BESS into an Existing Large Commercial Building Automation System with HVAC, Solar and EV Charging for Achieving Net Zero Carbon

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0002788

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-EE0010907

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0010907-002

CID Number
GO10907

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:

B5.1 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); 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:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Southern Company Services, Inc. (SoCo) to design and integrate a battery energy storage system (BESS) in an existing building and creating a distributed energy management system (DERMS) to link to existing distributed energy resources (DERs) with building loads.

Proposed DOE award activities would include data collection and analysis, integration of a BESS, development of a DERMS, and functionality testing of the connected grid system within the building.

This NEPA Determination is being carried out to review a location change. The Mississippi Power Corporate Office (MPCO; Gulfport, MS) would be the new testing site. MPCO would carry out design work and testing of controls, as well as battery storage installation outside of the scope of this award. Alabama Power Corporate Headquarters (Birmingham, AL), SoCo (Birmingham, AL) and Electric Power Research Institute (Palo Alto, CA) would also assist with design work.

Separately from this DOE funded award, a BESS would be installed at the MPCO building. The BESS is being installed because of this project and thus is considered a connected action. Potential impacts of the BESS installation are being considered in this NEPA Determination.

Integration and field testing would be carried out at the MPCO building and would involve converting the building from individual loads and DERs into a unified DERMS, creating a grid-interactive efficient building which would then undergo testing. The BESS would be integrated into existing solar, electric vehicle charging stations, and HVAC systems. Integration and field testing would consist of software installation and some internal panel wiring.

The connected BESS installation activities would take place in the MPCO building parking lot, so there would be no impact to resources of concern because the area is previously disturbed with no resources of concern present.

Existing corporate health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed at all facilities, including: personnel training, proper personal protective equipment (PPE), engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments.

The proposed project activities occurring as part of the DOE award do not include any physical modifications of facilities or ground disturbing activities. DOE has considered potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources.

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:

Building Technologies Program (BTO)
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 02/11/2026.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

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

Date: 2/17/2026

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

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