

PMC-EF2a

(2/04/02)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: PA Department of Environmental Protection

STATE: PA

PROJECT TITLE : Pennsylvania State, Ground Mount Solar System -- ARRA-EECBG

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000013	DE-EE0000942.003		0

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

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

- B5.1** Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.
- A9** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.
- A11** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rational for determination:

The Project Activity Sheet (PAS) titled PA Conservation Works! submitted by the Pennsylvania State Energy Office includes the purchase and installation of a 283 kW ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) system on a 2.2-acre parcel located at 1005 Walnut Bank Farm Lane, Richland Township (the Township), Bucks County, Pennsylvania 18951. The PV system would be located adjacent to, and would power, the Water Authority's (the Authority) Walnut Bank Farm Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Building.

The Township Zoning Officer has determined that the land-use is permitted under the Zoning Ordinance as C16 Municipal Services Use in the Township's Suburban Residential Medium (SRM) Zoning District. Fencing and vegetative buffering will be used to partially shield the solar panels from view from Walnut Bank Farm Road which runs along the southern boundary of the site.

The PV system would entail the installation of 1,350 individual PV panels and connection to the grid via DC distribution lines to the inverter at the WTP. Using PPL Electric Utility's Virtual Net Metering Program, any surplus power from the PV system (after the power demand of the WTP is met) will be fed to the existing utility's power grid and will be credited against other Township and/or Authority facilities.

The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (fulfilling the NPDES permit requirements) was approved by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) on 2/22/10. Stormwater management methods will mimic the existing/natural conditions as closely as possible, will be consistent with sustainable development practices, and will be in accordance with the requirements of the PA DEP, all applicable local ordinances. Proposed site impervious areas will be limited to the cylindrical concrete foundations that will support the solar panels and no further bituminous paving or concrete is proposed. There will be clearing of some existing vegetation, lawn and a mix of trees and underbrush. Compaction of the remaining disturbed areas will be limited and the ground surface will be filled with loose, open graded stone to reduce flow velocities and encourage recharge over a large surface area. Stormwater that does not infiltrate the stone field will be directed towards naturalized rain gardens, existing woodlands or lawn areas.

There were no cultural resources identified at this project location according to the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Project Environmental Review (ER) Receipt, dated 8/7/09 and signed by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. According to the ER Receipt, the project location is directly adjacent to a surface quarry that has been filled with water, and the Tohickon Creek is on the opposite side of Heller Road, on the

east side of the site. Wetlands have been located and flagged by a wetland biologist and can be seen on the plan that has been included. The ER Receipt, also signed by the PA Game Commission and PA Fish and Boat Commission, stated that no impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

Therefore, PAS PA Conservation Works! qualifies as a categorically excluded activity consistent with A9, A11 and B5.1, and is exempt from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

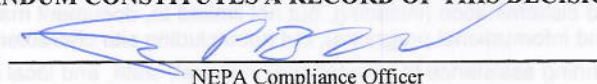
If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

4/15/10

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

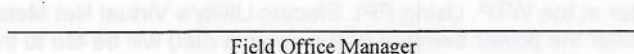
☐ Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- ☐ Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- ☐ Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

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

Field Office Manager's Signature:


Field Office Manager

Date: