

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: City of Henderson Department of Utility Services

STATE: NV

PROJECT TITLE : City of Henderson Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FY10 CDP	DE-EE0003166	GFO-10-555	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.

Rational for determination:

The City of Henderson Nevada proposes to use federal funds to design and establish, in part, their solar panel project that will be installed on a 45 acre city owned site located adjacent to the existing Kurt R. Seger Water Reclamation Facility. Energy derived from the solar project will be used solely for the adjacent water reclamation facility.

Federal funds will primarily be used for the procurement of the systems needed for initial deployment including up to 200 kW of solar panels, solicit bids from contractors for materials, award the contract, demonstrate acquired materials are integrated and operational with the intended scope of the project, and project management and reporting.

The purchase and installation of the 200 kW of solar paneling will be part of a much larger 4-6 MW solar array which will comprise the entire 45 acres of city owned property. All activities associated with land clearing, grading, and installation of other solar panels outside of the 200 kW supported by Federal funds is outside of the scope of this project.

Permits will be required from the City of Henderson before any building, construction or installation processes can be initiated for the entire project. The existing land use is comprised of abandoned water reclamation basins which have been filled with clean fill material; there is little to no vegetation present across the entire 45 acres of city owned property. The surrounding area is comprised of heavily developed industrial facilities, including the water reclamation facility. Minor trenching is anticipated for connecting installed solar panels within the array and to the water treatment facility, however, no trenching activities are anticipated outside of the proposed project site.

Potential environmental impacts:

-Permits: The City of Henderson building permits required for construction will be obtained by the selected general contractor for this project. No environmental permits are anticipated due to the lack of existing environmental features within the project area.

-Traffic: There could be a small increase in traffic during the delivery of solar paneling equipment to the site. Since the project site is located in an industrial area, periods of traffic increase would be minor and only occur sporadically for short timeframes during deliveries.

-Wastewater: No waste or storm water management permits are required and the City of Henderson does not require any hydrology studies to be performed.

-Visual: The existing exterior berm that surrounds the abandoned lagoons will remain in place, except for a 60-foot

segment which will be removed for the delivery/installation of solar panels. The existing berm will protect solar panels from high winds and reduce overall visibility of the solar array resulting in negligible visual impacts.

-Cultural Resources: The entire proposed solar array is located over previously disturbed and filled man-made water reclamation lagoons. No impacts are anticipated to cultural resources.

There would be no or negligible impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, wetlands, or other sensitive resources as the area is currently void of vegetation and located in an industrial area. Additionally, there will be no anticipated land use impacts.

Based on the information provided above, this project is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX number B5.1, actions to conserve energy due to the proposed establishment of a solar panel system to power a water reclamation facility.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kristin Kerwin Date: 9/14/2010
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager

Golden, Colorado 80401-3393
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Golden Field Office
Department of Energy

