NEPA Determination for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Application submitted by the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope of AK Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, appropriates funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) to issue/award formula-based grants to states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. DOE's authorization for this program is set forth in Title V, Subtitle E, of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. This CX determination is applicable to DOE elements reviewing and awarding formula-based and competitive grants under the EECBG Program, and includes, but is not limited to, EECBG Program activities under the purview of DOE-HQ Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, DOE Golden Field Office, and the DOE Oak Ridge Office. The use of grant funds for renewable energy technologies on government buildings would be conducted by various states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes.

The Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS) will use EECBG funds to install and maintain a small wind project on the ICAS building. EECBG funds will be used to purchase, install, and monitor a wind mill that would generate up to 2000W. The wind mill would be installed on-site and would provide energy to the ICAS offices. The wind mill will be monitored for one year following installation completion, to quantify energy and financial savings, maintenance costs, feasibility, and durability. This project will serve as a baseline study for potential implementation on tribal households. The results of this project and the subsequent studies will inform potential implementation on tribal households. No EECBG funds will be used to implement wind projects on households or to determine applicability to households. All EECBG funds will be used in implementation and evaluation of this particular project.

The application submitted and the technical review for this proposal do not reveal any extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211. The proposed energy efficiency and conservation strategies funded by this grant would not result in an adverse effect to historic properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), would not impact sensitive resources [e.g., threatened and endangered (T/E) species, wetlands and floodplains].

B3.6 and B5.1 are the applicable CXs that cover the proposed action in the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

Based on my review of the above description, I have determined that the above actions are categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation. The DOE Contracting Officer Representative is responsible for oversight of the application of this determination.

16/29/09

Mary E. Martin, NNSA HO NEPA Compliance Officer