

PMC-EF2a

(2/04/02)

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



RECIPIENT: City of Houston

STATE: TX

PROJECT
TITLE : EECBG Program - City of Houston, TX

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0000965	GFO -0000965-002	GO965

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 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); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); 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.

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the City of Houston, Texas under the DOE's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The City of Houston proposes to use \$1,443,369 to install 19 B-Cycle bicycle sharing stations and two-way bike lane striping throughout the city.

A previous NEPA determination was made on 12/12/2012 (GFO -0000965-001 B5.1) that included 18 of the 20 originally proposed B-cycle bicycle sharing stations and two-way bike lane striping. Two locations (#10 Sabine Bridge and #11 University of Houston (UH)-Downtown) fell in or near a 100-year floodplain and were not allowable actions without further NEPA review. This NEPA determination applies to the relocation of two stations (#11 UH-Downtown and #13 Elgin and Louisiana), including one of the previously restricted locations and the deletion of Station #10.

Station #11 would be moved from the UH-Downtown across Buffalo Bayou to a new location at Main St. and Franklin, adjacent to a UH-Downtown Commerce Building. It would be AC powered and unbolted. The station would be 31 ft. long by 5 ft. 8 in. wide and have 11 bicycle docks with a single side configuration. Station #13 at Elgin and Louisiana St. would be moved across the street to Milam on the west side just north of a transit shelter. The station would be 31 ft. long by 5 ft. 8 in. wide, solar powered and bolted down.

Station #10 has been removed from the scope of work.

Station #11 was found to be within an historic district and within 500 feet of historic buildings or sites. In a letter dated March 25, 2013, the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer found that the proposed stations (#11 and #13) would

have no adverse effect on National Register listed or eligible properties.

The City of Houston is designated nonattainment for the eight-hour ozone National Ambient air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and one-hour ozone NAAQS. Due to the minimal amount of construction expected, the nature of the project and the expected decrease in air emissions from the proposed bicycle sharing stations, DOE has determined that the bicycle sharing stations would not have any adverse impacts to emission levels of ozone.

The proposed project would be installed at existing locations, in areas that have been previously disturbed. The proposed bicycle sharing stations would not have adverse effects on threatened and endangered species, floodplains and wetlands, as these resources are not known to occur at the proposed site.

Based on the review of project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the installation of the two proposed bicycle sharing stations would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions B5.1, "actions to conserve energy," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

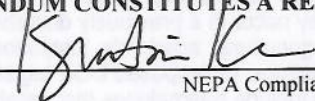
If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing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

Note to Specialist :

Kelly Daigle 5/15/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

5/16/2013

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: