PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Governor's Office of Energy **STATE:** NV

PROJECT TITLE : NV Desert Research Institute - PV Installation

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA0000643	EE0003761	GFO-0003761-002	EE3761

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:

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided federal funding to the State of Nevada Governor's Office of Energy under the DOE's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) State Energy Program (SEP). The Governor's Office of Energy established a Revolving Loan Fund with DOE ARRA funding. This fund is now managed under Nevada's Annual SEP grant, DE-EE0003761. Nevada is proposing to provide a $650,000 loan to the Desert Research Institute (DRI) to partially fund the purchase and installation of a 450 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system serving the Maxey Science Center (Maxey) building at their Reno, Nevada campus. The system would be net metered to the local utility, produce approximately 900,000 kWh of electricity a year and offset the annual electricity use of the Maxey building. DRI is the environmental research arm of the Nevada System of Higher Education, and the Maxey building is the primary research building on campus.

The system would include a 225 kW roof-mounted PV array and a 225 kW PV array mounted on a new parking shade structure. DRI's campus is located at 7010 Dandini Boulevard, Reno, Nevada and is owned by the Nevada System of Higher Education. The project would be managed by the Nevada Public Works Division. The DRI campus is a developed research facility and campus adjacent to and west of the Truckee Meadows Community College campus and is just east of US Interstate 395.

Approximately 2,500 solar PV panels would be installed for the entire system. The 225 kW roof mounted PV array would be installed on the roof of the main Maxey building and its attached addition. The new parking shade structures and 225 kW PV array would be constructed entirely on existing paved asphalt parking lot north and adjacent to the Maxey building. The structures would be a braced single support type shade structure designed for solar PV panels. Panels would be sloped at approximately a ten degree angle with the lowest point approximately nine feet six inches above ground level. There would be four rows of shade structures with a total length of approximately 900 feet and an approximate width of 20 feet per row, for a total foot print of approximately 18,000 feet. Structural supports would be mounted on drilled pier footings 30 inches in diameter and approximately six feet deep. Underground trenching would occur to connect the parking shade structure array to the main service panel providing power to the building. All ground disturbances (less than ½ acre total), would occur on previously disturbed ground that is either asphalt, concrete or landscaping.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program website identifies ten candidate, threatened or endangered species that are known to or are believed to occur in Washoe County, Nevada. However, due to the lack of potential habitat for any the species at the project site, lack of critical habitat in the vicinity of the site and the previously disturbed and developed condition of the site; DOE has determined the proposed project would not adversely affect threatened and endangered species in the area.

Prime farmland, wetlands, floodplains, and historical or cultural resources are not known to occur at the project site. Therefore, no impacts to these resources are anticipated.

Washoe County is a federally designated nonattainment area for fine particle matter (PM10). Prior to starting the project DRI would obtain a Washoe County construction activities Dust Control permit, with Best Management Practices, to reduce construction related dust impacts to local air quality.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the purchase and installation of a 450 kW solar PV system on the DRI campus 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 exclusion B5.16 "Solar Photovoltaic systems" 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 :

DOE funding: ~$650,000

Obadiah Broughton 7/15/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 7/17/2013

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