

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

STATE: WI

PROJECT TITLE : Wisconsin's Refueling Readiness Grant Program-Bayfield County Highway Garage

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0008669	GFO-0008669-012	

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

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment	Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.
A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination	Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Public Commission of Wisconsin to fund the installation of a backup natural gas generator, automatic transfer switch, electric conductors, and underground piping at the Bayfield County Highway Garage, in Washburn, Wisconsin. A backup generator would provide power to the County fueling station for emergency vehicle operations during power outages.

The award would fund the installation of a 50kW natural gas-powered generator, transfer switch and supporting wiring and piping at the existing County Highway facilities. A 32 square foot concrete pad would be constructed on existing asphalt pavement to support the generator. The proposed site for the generator is 10 feet from the county highway garage and would require a 10-foot trench to connect the electrical wiring. A separate trench up to 15 feet would be required to connect the generator to the existing natural gas line. All activities would occur on previously developed land.

Prime farmland, wetlands, floodplains, and cultural resources are not known to occur at the project site. Therefore, no impacts to these resources are anticipated. Due to the existing industrial nature of the proposed project location, and the lack of historic properties within ground level sight of the proposed project site, DOE determined there is no potential to effect historic properties.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies one candidate species (Monarch Butterfly), four threatened species (Canada Lynx, Northern Long-eared Bat, Red Knot, and Fasset's Locoweed) and one endangered species (Piping Plover) that may occur in the proposed project area. 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 have no effect to threatened, endangered or candidate species in the area.

Minimal air emissions would occur during emergency operation of the generator. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as the generator is designated to operate only during emergency events. Installation and operation of the proposed project may involve the use of heavy equipment, electrical equipment, and working with gas lines. Potential hazards would be mitigated through adherence to established institutional health and safety policies and procedures. The Public Commission of Wisconsin and Bayfield County would adhere to all applicable Federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

Any changes to the project activities or locations are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for Federal funding unless and until the Contracting Officer provides written authorization on those additions or modifications.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office - State Energy Program
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.
NEPA review completed by Amy Lukens, 2/9/2022

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/14/2022

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- ☒ Field Office Manager review not required
☐ Field Office Manager review required

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

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____