

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

NEPA DETERMINATION

**RECIPIENT:** Lincoln County Power District No. 1**STATE:** NV**PROJECT TITLE :** Lincoln County Power District Community Solar

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-SEP-0002014	DE-EE0003761	GFO-0003761-004	

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Lincoln County Power District No. 1 to install a community solar project in Lincoln County, Nevada with photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on Power District-owned property. This project received funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prior to receiving funding from DOE.

The proposed project activities include the installation of a 90 kW solar farm consisting of 9 ground-mounted, fixed-axis, PV arrays on .25 acres of what is currently vacant land that is planned for use as the Power District's future headquarters in Panaca, NV which is geographically located north and west of the town of Bullionville, NV. There will be 22 feet of spacing between each array and three arrays will provide input to one 28 kW grid tie inverter. Three grid tie inverters will provide input into one, 480 volt to 4,160 volt step-up transformer which will feed the power output into Lincoln's electric system. The planned PV system will be metered with power connected directly from the panels to the utility system grid.

Ground disturbance will be limited to the areas at the placement of the rack supports, between the conduits to the PV panels and between the conduits to the system transformer and meter, all on previously disturbed ground that has been graded for future development of the Power District headquarters. The Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) has confirmed that there are no at risk taxa recorded within a two kilometer radius of the proposed project site. USDA consulted with the NV State Historic Preservation Officer who confirmed that there are no historically or culturally protected sites near the proposed project. DOE contacted the NV State Historic Preservation Officer and determined that further section 106 consultation by DOE was not required. Additionally, USDA sent out Tribal consultation letters requesting any comments on the proposed project to the Paiute Tribe of Utah, the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation, and the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians. No comments were received from the Tribes.

Existing health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments. Additional policies and procedures would be implemented as necessary as new health and safety risks are identified. This would help ensure compliance with applicable health and safety regulations, and minimize health and safety risks to employees and the public.

Based on a review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusions B5.16 "Solar photovoltaic systems" and is therefore 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 :

Weatherization Assistance Program

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Rebecca McCord, 3/25/15

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

Electronically
Signed By: Lori Gray

NEPA Compliance Officer

Lori Gray

Date: 3/26/2015

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: _____