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(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: City of Elizabeth, NJ

STATE: NJ

PROJECT TITLE : Installation of Solar Panels at Municipal Owned Facilities

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0003195	GFO-0003195-002	GO3195

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 federal funding to the City of Elizabeth, NJ for installation of solar panels to link its solar energy systems to its municipal buildings' highest energy consuming components: Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC), boilers, generators and lighting. DOE completed a previous NEPA review (GFO-0003195-001 CX A9 & B5.1 5/26/2011) for this project and reached a conditional determination excluding several proposed locations due to their age and the need for a consultation/approval from the State Historic Preservation Officer. As a result of the previous determination, Task 1 "Planning and Design" was completed. This task proved several of the previously chosen locations to be unfeasible. Therefore, a new list of locations has been chosen and a new determination is required for the purpose of going forward with Tasks 2-5 which include activities such as solar array construction, system operation, education and outreach, and project measurement and reporting.

The City of Elizabeth, NJ seeks to install a solar panel system atop municipally-owned buildings including Peterstown Community Center, 408 Palmer Street; Erleben Recreation Center, 513-515 Richmond Street; Mickey Walker Recreation Center, 800-860 Anna St.; Department of Public Works Maintenance Facility, 400 Atlantic St.; Trumbull Street Emergency Response Facility, 442-464 Trumbull Street; and the Stephen Sampson Center, 860 Anna Street. The only modification to each building would be a rooftop photovoltaic system. Standard local building permits would be required and the City would assist in obtaining these permits from its local construction department. No other permits or permissions would be required.

No known potential health and safety hazards exist for this project; therefore, this project would pose no threat to statutory, regulatory or permit requirements for environment, health and/or safety. No land disturbance is anticipated as existing roads, parking lots and facilities would be used to access the project locations. All proper precautions would be taken to secure the facilities and limit access to the site during construction activities. Any solid wastes would be disposed of in accordance with local and state disposal regulations. As all of these buildings are newer than 50 years old and located outside the historical district there would be no cultural or historical concerns associated with this project.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined 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 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 :

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Rebecca McCord 07/28/2014.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

Electronically
Signed By: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/30/2014

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: _____