

PMC-ND (1.08.09.13)	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY</b> <b>OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY</b> <b>NEPA DETERMINATION</b>	
------------------------	--	---

**RECIPIENT:** Sokaogon Chippewa Community **STATE:** WI

**PROJECT TITLE :** SCC Emission-Free and Treaty Resources Protection Clean Energy Initiative

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001390	DE-IE0000036	GFO-0000036-001	GO36

**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:

- 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.)
- 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 the Sokaogon Chippewa Community for the installation of approximately 600 kW of solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities (18 installations) on its Reservation that would service 17 Tribal buildings in Forest County, Wisconsin. Of the 18 installations, 16 would be roof-mounted and two would be ground-mounted. Individual installations range from approximately 7 kW to 100 kW in size. This project includes contracting, design, permitting, construction, commission, monitoring, verification, and project management/reporting activities for the solar PV installations.

All proposed structures for the roof-mount installations have been evaluated by the recipient and determined to be structurally sound. Wetlands would not be affected by project activities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists three special status species (Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, and Northern Long-eared Bat) and 16 migratory bird species (including Bald Eagle) as possibly occurring within the project area. Because ground-mounted systems would require no vegetation clearing or tree removal and would occur within actively maintained areas and roof-mounted systems would not be expected to affect species or habitat, DOE has determined that there would be no effect to either special status species or migratory birds (including eagles) as a result of project activities. None of the Tribal buildings where installations would occur are listed as historic or eligible for listing as historic on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) but there is a NRHP listed property, the Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House (Ref. #04001486), across State Highway 55 from the ground-mounted PV system proposed at the C-store location. Three other roof-mounted installations (Youth Center, Elderly/Senior Center, and Food Distribution) may be visible from the NRHP property. The criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing was Criteria C (Design/Construction) with Criteria Consideration b (Moved Property). Even though the property has been removed from its original location, it retains enough historic features to convey its architectural values and retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The solar installations that would occur near the Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House could not alter the characteristics of the property that qualified it for inclusion in the National Register (architecture), therefore DOE has determined that the proposed project would have no potential to cause effects on historic properties and has no further obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. There were no other resources of concern found during review of the proposed project.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the proposal fits within the class of action(s) and the integral elements of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021 outlined in the DOE categorical exclusion(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410 (2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the

proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. This proposal 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 the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs  
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.  
NEPA review completed by Casey Strickland 10/21/16

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  *Lori Gray* Date: 10/21/2016  
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