

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** WI Office of Energy Innovation**STATE:** WI

PROJECT TITLE: WI Office of Energy Innovation, Energy Innovation Grant Program - Solar: City of Ashland, Brown County, Foreset County Potawatomi Community, Mukwonago School District, Octopi Brewing LLC, Solon Springs School District, Washburn School District

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
SEP-ALRD-2018	DE-EE0007494	GFO-0007494-005	

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:

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.)

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

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 Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation through the Energy Innovation Grant Program to purchase and install photovoltaic (PV) solar systems at public buildings, schools, and a university, along with a private and tribal owned business. Many of the sites include an educational component, and one school would also complete energy efficiency upgrades, as part of the project. The locations include:

City of Ashland police station parking garage - 400 11th Avenue West, Ashland, WI 54806. A 33.3 kW would be installed on the roof of the police station parking garage to offset the energy use of the police station. The project would track energy production in real time to be used as an educational tool. Police officers would receive training about solar panel maintenance and educate members of the public. All electrical equipment and would be located inside the parking garage. No ground disturbance would be required. The parking garage has not yet been constructed, but will be built regardless of the proposed PV installation.

Brown County –2420 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311-7003. A 98 kW solar PV would be installed on the roof of the new Brown County STEM Innovation Center Building on the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay campus, which is currently under construction, to off-set the energy use at the facility. The PV system would be installed after construction is completed. The solar panels, electrical equipment and racking system would be staged on site and transferred to and installed on the roof of the STEM Innovation Center. All electrical equipment and electrical lines would be located inside the building. The staging area would be disturbed ground that has been previously graded. No ground disturbance would be required. The STEM innovation Center has not been constructed, but will be built regardless of the proposed PV installation.

Mukwonago High School - 605 W. Veterans Way Mukwonago, WI 53149. A 300 kW PV system would be installed on the roof of the school. Additionally, software would be used to show the energy production of the PV panels to the students of the school. No modifications other than installation of the PV and the electric conduit to the exterior of the building would be required. Minor ground disturbance south of the building, next to the building would be needed for trenching of electrical conduit.

Solon Springs School - 8993 E Baldwin Avenue Solon Springs, WI 54873. A 99.9kW PV system on the roof of the Solon Spring school building would be installed. Minor roof repairs would be required prior to the installation. The roof repairs would take place regardless of the PV project. All electrical equipment and electrical lines would be located inside the building. No ground disturbance would be required. Educational materials and curriculum including a digital kiosk would be developed for school students and visitors to demonstrate the energy production of the PV system.

Washburn School District

Washburn Elementary School - 411 W 8th St., Washburn WI 54891. A 120 kW PV ground mount system would be installed on a hill side adjacent to the schools parking lot. The solar panels would encompass an area approximately 100 x 80 feet and require trenching from the solar array to the school building. Additionally, educational materials including a digital kiosk with energy production would be created.

Three small trees or shrubs would be removed to accommodate the installation. The area is regularly mowed, and used by school children. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database shows three mammals (Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Northern-Long eared Bat), a Red Knot Bird, and a Fassett's Locoweed plant, have the potential to be in or around the project area, but no critical habitat was identified in the area of the project. 18 migratory birds were identified, (Bald Eagle, Bobolink, Canada Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Dunlin, Evening Grosbeak, Golden-winged Warbler, Harris's Sparrow, Lesser Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, Red-headed Woodpecker, Ruddy Turnstone, Rusty Blackbird, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Golden Eagle and the Wood Thrush).

Washburn High School - 305 W 4th St., Washburn WI 54891. Up to a 120 kW PV would be installed on the roof of the high school. Additionally, a 2 kW ground mount PV system would also be installed next to the school in a 10 feet x 10 feet area for demonstration purposes, which is currently a garden.

Additional energy efficiency upgrades to the elementary and high school are being considered based on an upcoming energy analysis. The upgrades would be limited to: energy efficient lighting, HVAC upgrades to the existing system, retrofit and replacement of windows and doors. No structural modifications of the buildings would be required.

Octopi Brewing - 1131 Uniek Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597. A 230kW system PV system would be installed on the

rooftop of the brewery. Additionally, a 15 feet x 5 feet concrete pad to support a sufficiently sized battery power system for the PV system would also be included adjacent to the brewery. The brewery is currently under construction and will be built regardless of the proposed PV installation.

Forest County Potawatomi Community's (FCPC) Data Holdings - 3135 W. Highland Boulevard, Milwaukee, WI 53208. FCPC proposes to install a 103kW PV system with a 300 kWh battery storage system. The system would be comprised of a 56kW ground mounted and a 48kW roof mounted solar array. Minor ground disturbing activities would occur to install the racking for the solar PV panels. The area is previously disturbed, with buildings having been demolished a few years ago, and is currently mowed green space. The ground mount PV panels would be fenced in to ensure that the panels are not disturbed and that neighborhood safety and character are protected. There will be no change in use of the facility. The battery storage system would be added to the interior Data Center, without any building modifications.

In a letter from the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) it was stated that there not any "known Potawatomi cultural sites related to the Tribes migration through the greater Milwaukee area. Therefore, the FCPC THPO recommends the project proceed as planned. However, In the event that human remains are exposed during the construction of the solar array, work must halt and the project manager must contact the FCPC THPO immediately for further consultation."

The iPaC database shows one mammal, the Northern Long-eared Bat has the potential to be in or around the project area. Additionally, 22 migratory have the potential to be in or around the project area (American Bittern, American Golden-plover, Bald Eagle, Black Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Bobolink, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Cerulean Warber, Dunlin, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Golden-winged Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Least Bittern, Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-eared Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Ruddy Turnstone, Rusty Blackbird, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Willow Flycatcher, and the Wood Thrush).

The IPaC database shows various mammals, birds, and migratory birds listed above as endangered or threatened species that have the potential to be in or around the identified project areas with ground disturbance. Because of the nature of the project (i.e. solar PV and energy storage installations on previously-disturbed land, currently used for human activities), it is unlikely that any of the species of concern would be present in the project area. Additionally, the proposed project site is outside of the critical habitat of all listed species. Accordingly, DOE has determined the proposed project will have no effect on federally listed threatened or endangered species. Further, DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts to migratory bird species.

The proposed sites are not located in the 100-year floodplain. The state of Wisconsin must adhere to the restrictions of their DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with their State Historic Preservation Office. Additionally, 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.

All projects would be connected to the grid, and all required interconnect agreements with the local electrical company would be obtained.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs – State Energy Program
This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 04/24/19

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: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/24/2019

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: _____