

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:** New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives, sub-recipient: NH Community Development Finance Authority, contractor:BP New London, LLC

**STATE:** NH

**PROJECT TITLE:** BP New London Solar Installation

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0008658	GFO-0008658-001	

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.)
- B5.16 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 New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives to provide a loan to BP New London, LLC to install two solar photovoltaic (PV) systems with a total capacity of 220.9kW of electricity to the town of New London, NH. A 150 kW ground mounted PV system would be installed at the town's sewage pump station located at 64 Frothingham Rd, New London, NH, and a roof mounted 71 kW PV system would be installed at the town's public works facility located at 186 South Pleasant Street, New London, NH. The roof of the public works building and the ground at the sewage pump station would be leased and assigned to BP New London, LLC. The town of New London would take and pay for 100% of the solar production.

The ground mounted PV system at the sewage pump station would be placed on a flat, open area that is mowed grass adjacent to a building. 50,000 square feet of trees would be cut down to reduce shading on the solar panels. The PV system would require a post driven pile solar racking system for 432 panels with two inverters. An underground conduit would be trenched approximately 120 feet from the solar panels to an existing ground mounted transformer.

The roof mounted PV system would be installed on the garage at the public works facility, and would require a flush mount solar racking system with inverters. An underground conduit would be installed from the garage to a new transformer which would be installed near the training building, and would require approximately 100 feet of trenching. A new 400 amp electric service panel would be installed on the exterior wall of the training building. 20,000 square feet of trees would be cut down to reduce shading on the solar panels. The garage was built in 1920, however, the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources made a determination of "No historic properties affected."

The removed trees at both sites would be chipped. The chips would be scattered where the trees had stood. Both locations are outside of the 100-year floodplain.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) Endangered Species Program website (iPaC) lists the threatened

Northern Long-eared Bat and five migratory bird species as possibly occurring within both project areas. Tree removal at both sites for the PV installations could affect the Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) and migratory bird species, if present. Project activities are planned to occur during the winter outside of the roosting and breeding season from April 1 – October 31 timeframe, assuming the project stays on the planned schedule. Based on the above, DOE completed streamlined Section 7 consultation with USFWS for NLEB. DOE determined that this project may affect the NLEB, but that any resulting incidental take of the NLEB is not prohibited by the final 4(d) rule for the species. USFWS concurred with this determination in an email received October 17, 2019. The planned project schedule would also protect migratory birds during their various breeding seasons.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Recipient must complete project activities outside of April 1 – October 31, for protection of the Northern Long-eared Bat and migratory birds.

Notes:

Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs Office - SEP  
This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.  
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 11/14/19

## 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:



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

11/15/2019

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_