

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** City of North Augusta, SC**STATE:** SC

PROJECT TITLE: Brick Pond Park Solar Aeration System

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| | DE-EE0008294/03 | GFO-0008294-007 | |

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:

B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located 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 City of North Augusta, SC to replace an existing electrical aerator system with a solar aerator system for a storm water treatment system at Brick Pond Park located at 88 Center Street, North Augusta, SC 29841. Brick Pond Park is both a public city park and a stormwater treatment system that covers approximately 40 acres of wetland habitat. Converting from an electrical to a solar aerator system would conserve energy and city funds.

The project would require submerging two lengths of 100' weighted tubing (connected to the land based pumps) into the freshwater environment from a boat. Each end of the tubing would be fitted with an air driven bubbler unit and would be submerged approximately 3-5 feet on the bottom of the pond.

A 6' x 6' area of land that juts out into the pond would be cleared of woody vegetation to house equipment. Work crews would use machetes to clear the area and chop up the scrubby vegetation and leave smaller brush piles on site for nesting or wildlife material. Larger woody debris would be taken to a landfill. The equipment to be installed in this area would include a single 2" metal post for the 280 Watt solar panel and a wooden pedestal to support a 4'x 4' box for the solar batteries and timer. The system would be self-contained, so no electrical connections would be required.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) Endangered Species Program website (iPaC) identifies two birds and three flowering plant species that are endangered or threatened, as well as eight migratory birds that are listed as Birds of Conservation Concern that are known to, or are believed to occur in Aiken County, SC. However, due to the type and scale of project activities as well as a lack of favorable habitat including an absence of preferred trees, soils and other conditions for the species of concern, DOE has determined the proposed project would have no effect on special status species in the area.

There are no permits or authorizations required for the City to install the device into the pond. The proposed project would be located in the 100-year floodplain and a designated wetland, however, the activities would not have short-term or long-term adverse impacts to the floodplain or wetland. Additionally, DOE has determined that the project activities are not subject to the preparation and distribution of a notice of floodplain action as required under Subpart B of 10 CFR 1022 "Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements", as the proposed activities are minor modifications or additions to existing equipment to improve environmental conditions and the requirement is not applicable (10 CFR 1022.5(d)(3)).

The recipient shall adhere to the restrictions of their programmatic agreement with their State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs Office- State Energy Program
This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder 11/22/2019

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: 11/22/2019

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: