

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:** Marivi Travieso / United States Army Garrison Fort Bliss

**STATE:** TX

**PROJECT TITLE:** Fort Bliss UESC Phase 1

|  |                                      |                            |                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> | <b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> | <b>NEPA Control Number</b> | <b>CID Number</b> |
| DE-FOA-0002143                                 | DE-EE0009036                         | GFO-0009036-001            |                   |

**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.)
- B1.18 Water supply wells** Siting, construction, and operation of additional water supply wells (or replacement wells) within an existing well field, or modification of an existing water supply well to restore production, provided that there would be no drawdown other than in the immediate vicinity of the pumping well, and the covered actions would not have the potential to cause significant long-term decline of the water table, and would not have the potential to cause significant degradation of the aquifer from the new or replacement well.
- 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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the US Army at Fort Bliss (Fort Bliss, Texas) to perform work which would meet energy and water resilience requirements to secure critical mission facilities.

The Fort Bliss army post has 1.12 million acres of land in both Texas and New Mexico. It houses 39,000 military personnel, an additional 39,000 family members, and employs 13,000 civilians. The post includes over 140 buildings encompassing over 5.4 million square feet and over 43,000 light fixtures. One hundred and two of the buildings have been designated as critical or uninterruptible (for power). Fort Bliss has 18 water wells, though still purchases 430,000,000 gallons of water from the City of El Paso, Texas. The goals of the proposed project are to increase

energy and water resilience and independence.

Proposed work would include three energy conservation measures: lighting improvements; water resilience; and, energy storage. Initial activities would include data gathering to determine needs, as well as engineering and systems design for all three energy conservation measures. Once designed, Fort Bliss would implement the three energy conservation measures.

Lighting upgrades would include upgrades to some interior and exterior lights to LED technology. All upgrades would be replacing pre-existing lighting.

Water resiliency upgrades would include re-drilling an existing water well and drilling two new wells. The new wells would each be 350 feet deep. No new roads would be built to access well locations.

Energy storage measures would include installation of seven genset generators. Three new slabs would be poured upon which the generators would be placed. Generators will be installed onto slabs. Generators would be up to 15 feet in height. Generators would ensure uninterruptible power supplies to some designated critical buildings.

All work would occur on the Fort Bliss post. All work will be in compliance with Fort Bliss land surveys and requirements of the Fort Bliss Environmental Department. No historic or cultural properties or archaeological areas of concern have been identified by the Environmental Department. All necessary permits including air emissions permits, drilling permits, and construction permits would be obtained prior to construction. All work would be in compliance with Fort Bliss regulations as well as all federal, state, and local regulations.

Because Fort Bliss is part of a Federal agency it is required to comply with NEPA for this project. This would include completing an environmental review for the project including any necessary consultations and geotechnical or other surveys prior to a decision whether to proceed. If Fort Bliss proceeds with the proposed project after their NEPA review they would be required to obtain all necessary permits and follow appropriate environment, health and safety measures. Fort Bliss must provide its final NEPA determination(s) to their DOE FEMP Technical Project Officer or point of contact.

This DOE grant is a secondary funding source for this project and comprises less than 2% of total project funding. Primary funding will come from Fort Bliss.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

The Recipient is a Federal agency and is also required to comply with NEPA. When the Recipient has completed its NEPA review process for the proposed project, the Recipient will provide its final NEPA determination(s) to their DOE FEMP Technical Project Officer or point of contact.

Notes:

Federal Energy Management Program  
This NEPA determination does require a tailored NEPA provision.  
Review completed by Roak Parker, 5/20/2020

## 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:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 5/21/2020  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager