

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Orchard Hill Breadworks, LLC**STATE:** NH**PROJECT TITLE:** Solar Array at Breadworks

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0008658	GFO-0008658-005	

**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.)
- B5.16 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 the NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) to install a 35.2kW (DC) solar photovoltaic (PV) ground mounted system located at Orchard Hill Breadworks, LLC in Alstead, NH. The project would supply electricity for operations at the Orchard Hill Breadworks, LLC facility.

The proposed PV array would consist of 88 modules, three inverters with optimizers and the associated racking system. A green house was originally located at the site but was removed a few years ago. Each rack would be mounted on 3 - 8" diameter steel pipe, with a concrete base that is 36" in diameter and approximately 6' deep. In addition to the excavation work to be completed for the post holes, a 90' trench would be dug to the corner of the barn for the conduit where the inverters will be mounted, along with the AC combiner. An ethernet connection to the inverters would provide module-level online monitoring.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program website (iPaC) lists the threatened Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) and seven migratory birds that are of conservation concern and may potentially be within the project site, they include: Black-billed Cuckoo, Bobolink, Canada Warbler, Evening Grosbeak, Prairie Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, and the Wood Thrush. These migratory birds are not expected as the project site does not include the preferred habitat conditions due to a lack of tree nesting and ground nesting sites. The site does not include any trees and the land is actively managed with regular cutting of the grass. Additionally, Bald Eagles could be in the project area, but without tall, large diameter trees or foraging areas near large, open expanses of water, suitable habitat is not present for Bald Eagles. Considering all project activities would occur on already disturbed lands that are not suitable habitat for these species, DOE has determined that this project will have no effect on any special status species of concern.

Soils in the project area are considered prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance. Total area of the installed PV array and associated infrastructure would be less than 0.05 acres at a commercial business operation where the land has been disturbed for human use. There would be no irreversible conversion of protected farmlands to non-agricultural use as a result of the DOE funded project.

The recipient worked directly with their State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to ensure protection of cultural resources during the project activities. The SHPO reviewed the proposed project activities and the site location, and determined, "No Historic Properties Effectuated" on April 6, 2021. DOE is in agreement with this determination from the New Hampshire SHPO.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

[Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs Office - SEP](#)  
[This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.](#)  
[NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 6/22/21](#)

**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: 6/23/2021

**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: \_\_\_\_\_