

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Kipnuk Tribal Utility

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE: Kipnuk Light Plant Battery Energy Storage Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002317	DE-IE0000143	GFO-0000143-001	GO143

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Kipnuk Tribal Utility (Kipnuk) to install and commission a battery energy storage system (BESS) module and auxiliary equipment at an existing wind-diesel power plant in the Village of Kipnuk, AK. The BESS would be interconnected to the wind-diesel power plant and would serve to augment diesel-off operations and consequently reduce diesel usage.

Proposed project activities would consist of the procurement, installation, and monitoring of the BESS module and associated hardware. Specific tasks would include the negotiation of procurement/contractor agreements, project planning activities (e.g., development of installation plans), collection of onsite data, equipment procurement and mobilization, equipment installation, integration of the BESS into the existing grid, verification testing, and post-installation equipment monitoring. Kipnuk would oversee all project activities and manage administrative functions, including procurement, reporting, and stakeholder engagement. Installation and interconnection activities would be performed by a qualified third-party vendor that would be selected after the project has commenced.

BESS installation would require the construction of a deck and metal shelter. Construction would occur in a previously disturbed area adjacent to the existing wind-diesel power plant. The deck would be constructed from lumber and would measure approximately 24' x 36.' Ground piles would be installed to a depth of 12' and would be utilized to secure the deck in place. Approximately 40 ground piles would be installed when the ground is frozen, resulting in minimal ground disturbance. The metal shelter would consist of a prefabricated structure 12' x 24,' (i.e., a Quonset hut) to be installed on top of the deck to house the lithium-ion batteries.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation database indicates that the Spectacled Eider, a duck species, has the potential to be present in the project area. However, due to the nature of the project activities – i.e., small-scale construction activities and equipment installation within a previously disturbed area currently used for human commercial activities – DOE has determined that there would be no effect to Endangered Species Act listed species or critical habitats. The project site where installation activities would be performed is not near any listed historical buildings or landmarks, or any properties that are eligible for listing. Consequently, there would be no effect to any historical properties. DOE also conducted a review of potential issues relating to other resources of concern and found that no effects would be expected to result from the project.

Kipnuk and contracted third-party vendors would adhere to all local, state, and Federal health, safety, and environmental regulations when performing project activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Jonathan Hogue, 08.19.2021

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:

8/19/2021

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: _____