

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



**RECIPIENT:** Red Cloud Renewable

**STATE:** SD

**PROJECT TITLE :** Bridging Renewable Industry Divides in Gender Equality

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002769	DE-EE0010822	GFO-0010822-001	

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.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations**

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

**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 Red Cloud Renewable (RCR) to customize and implement a solar photovoltaic (PV) system installation training program and supportive services for female Native Americans. Award activities would include outreach activities at Tribal gatherings and events (e.g., pow-wows). Women from federally recognized Tribes would be recruited and receive training at RCR facilities in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (PRIR) of South Dakota. Training courses would include working with relevant tools and equipment, practicing PV system installation in a laboratory setting, obtaining relevant safety and health certificates, acquiring skills and knowledge for obtaining a job in the industry, and participating in the design, pricing, and installation of PV systems (roof- and ground-mounted) at residential sites in PRIR. The total area which would be occupied by all PV systems to be installed would not exceed ten acres. Prior to PV installation activities at each residential site, the responsible Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) would be contacted to analyze residential sites.

RCR facilities are preexisting purpose-built facilities for the type of work to be conducted for this award. Facility modifications would not be required. Award activities would involve typical hazards associated with PV system installations, including handling and use of hazardous materials, operation of potentially hazardous equipment, and site-specific environmental hazards. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed to mitigate hazards to acceptable levels. Mitigated hazards would pose negligible risks to the public and environment. All activities would comply with existing applicable laws and regulations.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders. All necessary permissions from communities and their respective authorities would be obtained prior to any personnel traveling to communities and performing on-site activities.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Prior to initiating any installation activities for a photovoltaic (PV) system at any residential site at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (PRIR), Red Cloud Renewable (RCR) will contact the Oglala Sioux Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) to request an analysis of the site. RCR will forward the THPO's findings to DOE (gonepa@ee.doe.gov). DOE will review the THPO's findings and determine if the ND (GFO-0010822-001) would still be applicable for the site or if additional review would be required.

Prior to initiating any installation activities for a ground-mounted PV system at any residential site at PRIR, RCR will send the proposed installation location and potential area of effect to DOE (gonepa@ee.doe.gov). DOE will review the area details and determine if the ND (GFO-0010822-001) would still be applicable for the site or if additional review would be required. This condition does not apply to roof-mounted PV systems or if the proposed installation site is regularly maintained (e.g., landscaped or mowed) and was regularly maintained before the site was considered for this award.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)  
This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.  
NEPA review completed by Dan Cahill, 09/11/2023.

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



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/14/2023

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