

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



RECIPIENT: Fresh Solution Farms, LLC

STATE: MI

PROJECT TITLE : Fresh Solution Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
SEP-ALRD-2023	DE-EE0010036	GFO-0010036-002	

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 State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to design and install solar rooftop systems on Fresh Solutions' facility at 70255 Blue School Road, White Pigeon, Michigan.

Activities would include the design and installation of two separate rooftop solar systems on Fresh Solutions' existing potato packing and storage facility built in 2008. One system would consist of 996 panels for a 398 kilo-watt (kW) solar system to provide solar energy to the potato packing facility. The second system would consist of 410 solar panels for a 164 kW solar system to provide solar power to the onsite potato storage. Both systems would be installed on the same rooftop. Facility modifications would not be required. There would be no ground disturbance as a result of this award.

Minimal air emissions may result from the use of diesel-powered vehicles and equipment during installation of rooftop solar panel systems. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Award activities would involve typical hazards associated with rooftop solar panel installation, including working on an elevated and inclined surface (roof) and working with electricity. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed to mitigate hazards to acceptable levels. Skilled tradespeople would work on the project and all industry-standard health and safety policies and procedures including employee training and the use of proper PPE would be followed. Fresh Solutions, LLC would observe all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and would obtain and comply with all necessary permits and authorizations.

The recipient would work directly with their State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to ensure protection of cultural resources during the course of project activities, per their historic preservation programmatic agreement with DOE and the Michigan SHPO.

DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. The Recipient shall adhere to the restrictions of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the State of Michigan, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.
2. The Recipient is responsible for reviewing the online NEPA and Historic preservation training at www.energy.gov/node/4816816 and contacting EECBG.NEPA@ee.doe.gov with any EECBG NEPA or historic preservation questions.
3. The Recipient is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report in the Performance and Accountability for Grants in Energy site (PAGE): <https://www.page.energy.gov/login.aspx>.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs - SEP
NEPA review completed by Emily Cohen, 05/23/2024.

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: 5/30/2024

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: _____