

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



**RECIPIENT:** Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

**STATE:** NE

**PROJECT TITLE :** City of Hickman Lighting and Pathway Signs

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002882	DE-SE0000226	GFO-SE0000226-002	

**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.)

**B5.1 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 Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and the subrecipient, City of Hickman in Lancaster County for converting existing streetlights to LED fixtures and replacing existing crosswalk signage and lighting with solar powered ones. This project would be funded under the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the DOE's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program Formula Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (EECBG Formula - IIJA).

Proposed activities would involve installing solar powered crosswalk signs and lighting and replacing existing streetlights with LED fixtures in Hickman, NE. Ground disturbance around the existing light poles would be required to remove and replace footings and bore new conductors, this would involve removing portions of sidewalks and concrete to complete upgrades to conductors, poles, and fixtures. There are 50 locations: five locations identified for crosswalk sign replacement, 12 locations identified for downtown lighting and sidewalk work, and 33 Top hat light locations.

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 NE SHPO.

Based on FEMA National Flood Hazard Map data accessed on June 28, 2024, a portion of the proposed project sites are located within flood hazard areas. However, the existing light poles are already in place, minimal ground disturbance is anticipated, and project activities would not have the potential to impact the floodplain itself. DOE has determined that providing funding in support of this project is not a floodplain action requiring a floodplain assessment under 10 CFR 1022.

Minimal air emissions may result from the use of diesel-powered vehicles during the LED streetlight fixture upgrades. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Hazards associated with the lighting retrofit activities include working at elevated heights, with electricity and electrical equipment. Award activities may involve handling and disposal of hazardous materials, such as fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts. Existing government health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed, including personnel training, proper personal protective equipment (PPE), and engineering controls.

Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and its subrecipient would observe all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations and requirements. 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. Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of Nebraska, available at <https://www.energy.gov/scep/articles/nebraska-state-historic-preservation-programmatic-agreement>.
2. If during project activities the recipient or their contractors encounter any cultural materials (i.e. historic or prehistoric), all activities must cease in the vicinity of the discovery immediately. The recipient must inform the DOE Project Officer of the discovery so that an evaluation of the discovery can be completed prior to continuing work.
3. Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy is responsible for reviewing the online NEPA and Historic preservation training at [www.energy.gov/node/4816816](http://www.energy.gov/node/4816816) and contacting [EECBG.NEPA@ee.doe.gov](mailto:EECBG.NEPA@ee.doe.gov) with any EECBG NEPA or historic preservation questions.
4. Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report at <https://forms.office.com/g/kAFs0N7CZH>.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs – EECBG  
NEPA review completed by Emily Cohen, 07092024

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



Electronically Signed By: Matthew Blevins

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/11/2024

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