

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



RECIPIENT: YWCA Kauai

STATE: HI

PROJECT TITLE: YWCA Kauai Solar-Plus-Storage Resilience Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010818	GFO-0010818-002	GO10818

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 administer Congressionally Directed Spending to the YWCA Kauai (YWCA) to install a 4.8-kilowatt (kW) rooftop solar array on their administration building. A battery energy storage system would also be installed on the side of the building in order to power the YWCA during power outages.

A previous NEPA Determination (ND; GFO-0010818-001; A9; 06/27/2024) was completed for Tasks 1 and 2. Tasks 3, 4, and 5 were not previously reviewed due to undefined details. This ND applies to Task 3-5 activities, which would consist of site preparation, and installing twelve additional roof-mounted solar panels and racking systems, micro-inverters, and three Tesla Energy Powerwall Storage batteries for an estimated 4.8-kW of generation and 40.5 kWh of storage.

All award activities would be carried out at the YWCA Administration Building (Lihue, HI). The YWCA is located less than two miles from the Lihue Airport, which consists of two runways and a control tower. Although the YWCA is located less than two miles from the airport, the solar panels would be placed on the south or west side of the YWCA roof. Because the airport is almost due east and 18 degrees north, panels installed on the south or west side of the YWCA administration building would not cause any solar glare that could affect the control tower at the airport.

If, during design finalization, it is determined that solar panels must be placed on the east or north side of the YWCA administration building, the recipient shall stop the site-based activities immediately and inform the DOE Project Officer. A solar glare analysis would be required to be completed by the recipient prior to re-commencing project work.

Individuals working on this project could be exposed to physical hazards. Existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, and monitoring. Additional policies and procedures would be implemented as necessary if new health and safety risks are identified.

The YWCA has been identified as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, on July 11, 2024, DOE submitted a Request for Review to the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). On July 30, 2024, DOE received SHPO concurrence with the determination that the YWCA is not eligible for the NRHP, and the proposed project activities would not affect historic properties. DOE also conducted a review of potential issues related to other resources of concern and found no effects that would be expected to result from the proposed project activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 08/01/2024.

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: 8/5/2024

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: _____