

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



RECIPIENT: City of Pensacola

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE : Install Rooftop Solar to Community Center Building

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002882		GFO-PensacolaFL-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, 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 and (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 City of Pensacola in Escambia County, Florida to install a rooftop solar array at the Community Center Building located at 2001 East Lloyd Street, Pensacola, Florida. 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).

Award activities would involve the installation of a 92kW rooftop solar array at the Community Center. The center was built in 2021. The rooftop solar array would encompass approximately 18,000 square feet and include a maximum of 160 solar panels. The roof would not require facility modifications or roof reinforcement. The PV module racking system would be attached with penetrations through the existing shingled roof. Trees would not be trimmed or cut, and trenching would not be required for conduits.

The IPaC report generated August 21, 2024, lists six species in the proposed project area: West Indian Manatee, Eastern Black Rail, Alligator Snapping Turtle, Eastern Indigo Snake, Gulf Sturgeon and Monarch butterfly. There are no suitable habitats for these species in the area. The Bald eagle and several migratory bird species are identified as having a high likelihood of occurrence and breeding in project area. However, the project would be contained to an existing structure and would not disturb nesting locations. Therefore, DOE has determined the proposed project would have no effect to threatened, endangered or candidate species in the area.

There are no changes in use, or health and safety hazards anticipated. The project would not require review from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) because the roof would not require reinforcement to install the solar arrays and qualifies for exemption under the Florida Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement (PA).

Minimal air emissions may result from vehicles and equipment that would be used to install the solar arrays, but emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Existing government and corporate health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed, including personnel training, proper personal protective equipment (PPE), monitoring, and internal assessments.

The City of Pensacola 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. The City of Pensacola must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of Florida, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.

2. The City of Pensacola 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 City of Pensacola 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, 08292024

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:



Signed By: Matthew Blevins

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

8/30/2024

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: _____