

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



RECIPIENT: Fairfax County Government

STATE: VA

PROJECT TITLE : Clean Energy Upgrades in County Facilities and in the Fairfax County Community

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number DE-FOA-0002882	Procurement Instrument Number DE-SE0000660	NEPA Control Number GFO-SE0000660-001	CID Number
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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 Fairfax County, Virginia (VA) for two rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) array installations at County buildings in Lorton and Springfield, VA. This project would be funded under the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program Formula Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Award activities would involve site assessment, design, and installation of two rooftop solar PV systems. The Lorton Community Center and Library in Lorton, VA array would be an approximately 114-kilowatt (kW) direct current (DC) system with 235 panels installed on three sections of the roof covering a total area of approximately 11,050 square feet. The panels would be installed on metal racks and secured to the roof with anchors penetrating the roof deck. Two DC to alternating current (AC) inverters would be mounted on walls or vertical racks on the roof and an electrical disconnect would be installed on the exterior wall at ground level near the main electrical roof. Conduits for the electrical wiring would be installed from the panels to the inverters and from the inverters to the main electrical room to tie into the main building power. The building was designed to accommodate solar PV equipment, and no reinforcement would be required. There would be no ground disturbing activities.

The second array would be at the Edsall Road Fire Station in Springfield, VA. The solar PV system would have approximately 228 panels with a generating capacity of approximately 111-kW DC that would be installed on four sections of the roof. The panels would be installed on metal racks in an area of approximately 6,400 square feet. Two DC to AC inverters would be mounted on walls or vertical racks on the roof and an electrical disconnect would be installed on the exterior wall at ground level near the main electrical roof. Conduits for the electrical wiring would be installed from the panels to the inverters and from the inverters to the main electrical room to tie into the main building power. The building was designed to accommodate solar PV equipment, and no reinforcement would be required. There would be no ground disturbing activities.

The IPaC report generated October 2, 2024, includes three listed species in the Lorton project area: northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The IPaC report generated October 2, 2024, for the Springfield, VA project area includes two listed species: tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). There are no designated critical habitats at either location. The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and several migratory bird species are identified as having a high likelihood of occurrence and breeding in both project areas. However, the projects would be contained to existing structures and would not disturb nesting locations. Therefore, DOE has determined the proposed projects would have no effect on threatened, endangered or candidate species in the area.

The Lorton Community Center and Library and the Edsall Road Fire Station are new buildings built in 2022. Fairfax County shall adhere to the restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the State of Virginia, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>. In the event an activity would not meet the exemptions identified within the PA, the County shall consult with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office to obtain concurrence prior to project initiation.

Minimal air emissions may result from the use of diesel-powered vehicles during installation of the new equipment. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Hazards associated with the activities include working at elevated heights, operating large machinery (crane), and working with electricity and electrical equipment. Existing government health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed, including personnel training, proper personal protective equipment, and engineering controls. Mitigation measures will be followed to reduce safety hazards including daily toolbox talks, guardrails installed around the roof and lock out tag out procedures enforced.

Fairfax County 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 proposed project activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. Fairfax County must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of Virginia, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.
2. Fairfax County 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 general historic preservation questions.
3. Fairfax County is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report in the Performance and Accountability for Grants in Energy system (PAGE) located at <https://www.page.energy.gov/default.aspx>. If you have any questions about completing the annual Historic Preservation Report, please contact historicpreservation@ee.doe.gov and include your DOE Project Officer on the email.
4. Fairfax County must acquire all required electrical and structural building permits prior to construction and installation activities.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs – EECBG
This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Emily Cohen, 10/04/2024

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:  **Electronically Signed By: Matthew Blevins** Date: **10/8/2024**
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager