

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



RECIPIENT: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE : Goodnews Bay Renewable Energy

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0002975

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-IE0000187

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0000187-001

CID Number

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.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Alaska Village Energy Cooperative (AVEC) for the Goodnews Bay Renewable Energy Project which would include installation of two 100 kW wind turbine generator (WTG) and battery energy storage systems (BESS). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utility Service (RUS) has provided AVEC a grant for upgrades to the electrical system, installation of automated switchgear, and to upgrade the existing recovered heat system. Federal funding from DOE would include the installation of the two 100kW WTGs and installation of BESS.

Award activities would occur over nine tasks.

- Task 0: Grant management
- Task 1: Final design and engineering
- Task 2: General construction bids
- Task 3: Purchasing of equipment and materials
- Task 4: Shipment and mobilization
- Task 5: Installation
- Task 6: Commissioning
- Task 7: 12-month verification
- Task 8: Grant administration

This ND applies only to tasks 0, 1, and 2. Due to the proximity to the Goodnews Bay Airport, project information must be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for an Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis. The FAA has yet to complete an aeronautical study of the turbine and any potential effects to the airports and air navigation. At this time, there is not enough information to complete a thorough review of the construction and surface disturbing activities associated with the installation of the wind turbine at the proposed location. Once the FAA has completed their aeronautical study and additional details of project design and siting are completed, another NEPA review will be required to assess potential impacts associated with the procurement, construction, and operation of the wind turbines. In addition, more information is needed to complete necessary cultural, historic, wildlife resource reviews and/or consultations.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

- Task 0: Grant management
- Task 1: Final design and engineering
- Task 2: General construction bids

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

- Task 3: Purchasing of equipment and materials
- Task 4: Shipment and mobilization
- Task 5: Installation
- Task 6: Commissioning
- Task 7: 12-month verification
- Task 8: Grant administration

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (IE)
NEPA review completed by Dustin Hill, 11/22/2024

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:



Matthew Blevins

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

12/6/2024

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: