

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



RECIPIENT: Shakopee

STATE: MN

PROJECT TITLE : Empowering The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community: Harnessing Solar Energy on Tribal Land

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0003298

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-IE0000205

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0000205-001

CID Number
GO205

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 the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (Tribe) to install five independent solar PV systems on the rooftops of existing Tribal buildings on Tribal land in Prior Lake, MN.

Award activities would include project management, planning, data collection, permitting, roof access design, engineering, transportation, construction, installation, and commissioning. Installation of two photovoltaic (PV) systems on the roof of the Dakota Sport and Fitness (DSF) center, 196 kW and 217 kW respectively, as well as the necessary power inverters and connectors needed. A 93 kW PV system including power inverters and connectors would be installed on the roof of the Playworks Event Center (PEC). Two convenience stores and gas stations owned by the Tribe would also have a 54 kW and 34.8 kW PV system installed on the roofs, in addition to power inverters and connectors. No sites would require any electrical or system upgrades.

The DSF installation would be located below the roof wall profile and would not be visible from the public right-of-way. The first system would be interconnected to the existing transformer, and the second would be interconnected at an existing cabinet wall mounted to the building. At PEC, the roof wall profile would also hide the PV system from the right-of-way. Additionally, the interconnection point would be in the existing cabinet in the electrical room. The first convenience store also has a roof wall profile that would hide the PV system from the public right-of-way. The second convenience store has an angled roof so the PV system would be visible, but it is not located within a historic district. The crane utilized for installation would be located on existing pavement to minimize ground disturbance.

Project activities would involve hazards associated with routine construction activities, including working with electricity, large equipment, working on rooftops, installation hazards, and fall risks. Any risks working with hazards would be mitigated through established Tribal and corporate safety and construction protocols. The Tribe would observe all applicable health, safety, and environmental regulations. The Tribe would obtain and comply with all applicable local, state, and federal permit requirements and regulations. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the DOE funded project or the connected USDA funded battery storage system installation.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of the proposed activities to determine potential impacts on sensitive resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature, 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:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (OIE)

This NEPA Determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 12/05/2024.

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:

12/10/2024

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: