

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



RECIPIENT: St. Maries Joint School District #41

STATE: ID

PROJECT TITLE: St. Maries District Energy Grant Renovations

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0002756

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-SE0000720

NEPA Control Number
GFO-SE0000720-001

CID Number
G0720

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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to St. Maries Joint School District #41 (hereinafter "St. Maries School District") to perform energy efficiency upgrades at three schools in St. Maries and Fernwood, ID. This funding opportunity is part of a DOE initiative to execute high-impact energy efficiency and health improvements as well as innovative energy technology packages in K-12 schools across the country. Overall goals include addressing historic inequities in school facilities investments, reducing school energy expenditures, helping schools lead the nation in solving the climate crisis, and creating well-paying union jobs.

DOE previously completed one NEPA Determination (ND; GFO-SE0002756-BP1; A9 and A11; 11/30/2023) that covered Budget Period (BP) 1 activities for 18 school districts under the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0002756). St. Maries School District was included in GFO-SE0002756-BP1 and is now seeking a NEPA review for the remaining award activities, i.e., BP2. However, this ND only covers BP2 Tasks 4 through 6 (there is no Task 7 per the most recent Statement of Project Objectives). A final ND for the remaining BP2 tasks, i.e., Tasks 8 through 22, is contingent on concurrence from the Coeur D'Alene Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). THPO consultation is necessary since a portion of the ground disturbing activities proposed at Heyburn Elementary School occur within a subsurface mineral resource tract of land owned by the Coeur D'Alene Tribe. DOE initiated consultation with the Coeur D'Alene THPO on 12/12/2024 and is awaiting concurrence at the time this ND (GFO-SE0000720-001) was signed. Therefore, all tasks involving ground disturbance have been omitted from this ND. No ground disturbing activities, or BP2 Tasks 8 through 22, can occur until THPO concurrence is received and a final ND is issued by DOE.

Task 4 activities involve final design work and permitting for Phase 1 of construction. Task 5 would focus on Phase 1 pre-construction activities which include equipment procurement and pre-construction photos. Final design for Phase 2 of construction would be achieved in Task 6. The activities covered by this ND are limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, and analytical activities.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

BP2 Tasks 4, 5, and 6. There is no BP2 Task 7 per the most recent Statement of Project Objectives.

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

BP2 Tasks 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

No ground disturbing activities, or BP2 Tasks 8 through 22, can occur until concurrence is received from the Coeur D'Alene Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and a final NEPA Determination is issued by DOE.

St. Maries Joint School District #41 is required to submit an annual historic preservation report on the MS Forms website summarizing all award undertakings and SHPO reviews occurring from September 1st through August 31st. These reports are due to DOE annually no later than September 15th. Please contact your DOE Project Officer for the link to the online form. 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.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs – Renew America's Schools
This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Corrin MacLuckie, 12/26/2024.

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.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Matthew Blevins

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 12/26/2024

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 :