

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



RECIPIENT: County of Spartanburg, SC

STATE: SC

PROJECT TITLE: Landfill Gas Capture System Improvements for Spartanburg County Awardee: Spartanburg County, SC

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0002882

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-SE0000932

NEPA Control Number
GFO-SE0000932-001

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.)

B1.15 Support buildings

Siting, construction or modification, and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated and modular buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include, but are not limited to, those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (such as security posts); fire protection; small-scale fabrication (such as machine shop activities), assembly, and testing of non-nuclear equipment or components; and similar support purposes, but exclude facilities for nuclear weapons activities and waste storage activities, such as activities covered in B1.10, B1.29, B1.35, B2.6, B6.2, B6.4, B6.5, B6.6, and B6.10 of this appendix.

B5.21 Methane gas recovery and utilization systems

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available methane gas recovery and utilization systems installed within a previously disturbed or developed area on or contiguous to an existing landfill or wastewater treatment plant that would not have the potential to cause a significant increase in the quantity or rate of air emissions. 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 Spartanburg County, South Carolina (SC) for designing and installing landfill gas (LFG) system upgrades at the Wellford Landfill Facility in Wellford, SC. This project would be funded under the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

Award activities would involve the design, development, installation, and field testing of an LFG system infrastructure expansion as well as improvements to the air compressor system at the Wellford Landfill Facility site. The solid waste facility includes both Class Two and Class Three landfills, a wood chipping and grinding area, and 12 detention ponds. The project would be within the Class Three Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (Phase 7-1B). A new air compressor package, air compressor building and pad including mechanical ducting and filtration, four horizontal gas collectors, and eight rock targets would be installed. The horizontal gas wells and rock targets would be installed within the existing permitted Class Three landfill cell. Staging for the construction would be in the general areas of construction within the Phase 7-1B area and the Air Compressor Station. Ground disturbance and excavation would be within the boundaries of the existing landfill. Existing roads would be used to access the project locations.

The rock targets (rock columns) would facilitate liquid drainage to the landfill's leachate collection system. There would be eight rock targets installed, each 10 feet wide x 10 feet long x 15 feet deep that would be excavated from the existing waste mass and involve a maximum of 75 tons of stone per rock target. The rock targets would be at least approximately 15 feet above the existing protective cover and liner system for the Class Three Municipal Solid Waste Landfill.

There would be four horizontal gas collectors installed in the same area as the rock targets. The gas collectors would include perforated pipe sections, each a maximum of 300 linear feet. The trenching for the pipe would be approximately 2 feet wide x 3 feet deep x 300 feet long. The trenching would be within the existing waste mass and excavation would be sloped to allow positive drainage of the collector pipe. The four collectors would tie into the new rock targets and would have wellheads installed upslope near the existing wells in the Phase 7-1B area and would connect to the existing LFG system vacuum sources with a solid pipe. Trenching for the installation of each horizontal solid pipe to the vacuum source would be within the existing waste mass and would be approximately 2 feet wide x 3 feet deep x 200 feet long, some location lengths would be shorter due to distance to the connection to the nearest existing LFG system vacuum source.

The new Air Compressor Station would replace the current air compressor. The new system would be immediately adjacent to the existing compressor and include a rotary screw compressor, dryer, filters, and a receiver tank housed on a new concrete pad under a new metal building roof. The existing compressor system would be connected to the new air compressor and become a backup system for the gas field. Ground disturbance for the new pad would include grubbing of existing grass vegetation and minimal subgrade excavation.

The IPaC report generated November 18, 2024, includes three listed species in the Spartanburg project area: tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and dwarf-flowered heartleaf (*Hexastylis naniflora*). There are no designated critical habitats at either location. There are several migratory bird species identified as having a high likelihood of occurrence and breeding in the project area. However, the project components would be within a facility that is already disturbed, and no trees would be trimmed or removed. Therefore, DOE has determined the proposed project would have no effect on threatened, endangered or candidate species in the area.

Spartanburg County consulted with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) per the DOE-executed South Carolina Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement. The South Carolina SHPO responded on February 11, 2025, concurring that no historic properties would be affected within the area of potential effects of the proposed project. However, if the scope of work changes in any way, or in the unlikely event that human remains or archeological materials are encountered during ground disturbing activities, work must be halted and the South Carolina SHPO, DOE Project Officer, and other appropriate authorities contacted immediately.

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. The work would not require a new Air Construction Permit through South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES); however, the applicant would consult and acquire any needed permits. The project would maintain compliance with the facility's existing General Title V Operating Permit for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills.

Hazards associated with the activities include working with construction equipment and handling of soils, and Class Three Landfill waste materials. Existing government health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed, including personnel training, proper personal protective equipment, monitoring, internal assessment, and engineering controls. If other health and safety risks were identified, additional policies and procedures would be implemented. Onsite work would be performed in OSHA Level D protection and in accordance with the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Landfill Gas Division Health and Safety Task Force.

Spartanburg 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.

EERE is aware of the November 12, 2024, decision in *Marin Audubon Society v. FAA*, No. 23-1067 (D.C. Cir. Nov. 12, 2024). To the extent that a court may conclude that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA are not judicially enforceable or binding on this agency action, EERE has nonetheless elected to follow those regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, in addition to DOE's procedures/regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, to meet the agency's obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. Spartanburg County must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of South Carolina, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.

2. Spartanburg 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. Spartanburg 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. As stated in the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence letter from the Supervisor of Survey and Review & Compliance State Historic Preservation Office, "If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply."

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, 4/22/2025

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: 4/24/2025

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: _____