

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



RECIPIENT: Lincoln County Power District No. 1

STATE: NV

PROJECT TITLE : Lincoln County Power District - Solar

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-EE0010792

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0010792-002

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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| B1.7 Electronic equipment | Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment. |
| B1.11 Fencing | Installation of fencing, including, but not limited to border marking, that would not have the potential to significantly impede wildlife population movement (including migration) or surface water flow. |
| B1.24 Property transfers | Transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in personal property (including, but not limited to, equipment and materials) or real property (including, but not limited to, permanent structures and land), provided that under reasonably foreseeable uses (1) there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment and (2) the covered actions would not have the potential to cause a significant change in impacts from before the transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests. |
| B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems | <p>(a) The installation, modification, operation, or decommissioning of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, or mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences); or2. Located within a previously disturbed or developed area. <p>(b) Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and the integral elements listed at the start of appendix B of this part, and would be consistent with applicable plans for the management of wildlife and habitat, including plans to maintain habitat connectivity, and incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.</p> |

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to Lincoln County Power District (LCPD) to develop, plan, construct, and operate a 2-megawatt photovoltaic (PV) solar generation facility. This facility would connect to existing distribution power lines located near the project site that are owned by LCPD.

Award activities would include engineering and design, site preparation, deployment and field testing of PV array, fencing installation, and testing. LCPD (Pioche, NV) would develop, plan, and operate the PV solar facility and would connect it to the existing grid. Award activities would be carried out at a 15-acre plot of vacant land located in northeast Pioche, NV (GPS coordinates: 37.952780, -114.412850).

The construction of new facilities would include the installation of a solar panel array as well as required inverters and a transformer. Proposed ground disturbance would be vegetation removal and site preparation, and the total area of disturbance would be approximately 15 acres. Site preparation would require some earth moving to allow the proper slope and angle for the solar array installation. Trenching and boring would occur during the project for the installation of panel base structures and conduits. Additional infrastructure would be constructed to connect the renewable

generator to existing distribution power lines using wooden poles. This infrastructure would include the construction of a new overhead distribution power line approximately 700-ft in length and underground primary cables with the necessary hardware to connect the new underground lines to existing overhead lines. Approximately 40,000 gallons of water would be used during the construction of the project for dust abatement and soil compaction. This water would be obtained from the local municipal water system.

Potential hazards resulting from award activities include heavy lifting, open trenches, and electrical shock. All activities would be carried out by trained equipment operators, and additional training would be provided should any necessitating circumstances arise. Open trenches would be barricaded and shored as per the regulations established by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Electrical shock hazards would be mitigated by strict adherence to company and OSHA personal protective equipment requirements and operating procedures.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) identifies two threatened or endangered species that may encounter the project area: the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (bird) and the Big Spring Spinedace (fish). There are also two proposed threatened and proposed endangered species: the Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee and Monarch Butterfly. Two migratory bird species of conservation concern may be present seasonally within the project areas, the Broad-tailed Hummingbird and the Pinyon Jay. Due to the fact that the site has been previously disturbed or developed, the area immediately adjacent to the proposed location is actively used for a variety of recreational uses (rodeo grounds, shooting range, etc.), and the lack of riparian habitat and scrubland nature of the site, DOE has determined there would be no effect to these species as a result of the award activities. To ensure that no species of concern are present, a bird nesting survey shall be conducted no more than seven (7) days prior to ground-disturbing activities occurring between February 1st and September 15th. If active nests or eggs are found, an appropriate spatial buffer would be applied per U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Nevada Department of Wildlife guidelines.

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.

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS:

- The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.
- 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.
- The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

A migratory bird nesting survey shall be conducted no more than seven (7) days prior to ground-disturbing activities occurring between February 1st and September 15th. If active nests or eggs are found, an appropriate spatial buffer would be applied per U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Nevada Department of Wildlife guidelines.

If during project work cultural or archaeological artifacts are encountered, the recipient shall stop the site-based activities immediately and inform the DOE Project Officer of the finding. A Class III: Intensive Cultural Resources Inventory shall be required prior to re-commencing project work.

Notes:

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically
Signed By: **Nicole Serio**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/13/2025

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: _____