

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-SE0000720-002

CID Number
GO720

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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water

(a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix.

(b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not:

1. Have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance);
2. involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials);
3. have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or
4. have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

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, including Heyburn Elementary School, Upriver Elementary School and St Maries Middle School. 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.

DOE previously completed a NEPA Determination (ND; GFO-SE0002756-BP1; A9 and A11; 11/30/2023) that covered Budget Period 1 (BP1) activities for 18 school districts under the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0002756). An additional ND was completed (GFO-SE0000720-001; A9; 12/26/2024), which covered Tasks 4 through 6 of BP2.

The current ND review is for the remaining BP2 tasks (Tasks 7 through 22). The review for these tasks can be conducted as DOE has completed its consultation responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Consultation with the SHPO was completed for the three projects, with a finding of no adverse effect on historic properties provided for St. Maries Middle School and Upriver Elementary School. The SHPO rendered a no adverse effect for the project at Heyburn Elementary School, provided that a black shadow bar is used for window replacements (serving as an "in-kind" replacement).

THPO consultation was necessary due to a portion of the ground disturbing activities proposed at Heyburn Elementary School, which was proposed to 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 received a response on 6/20/2025, where the THPO concurred that the undertaking would have no effect on historic properties. Therefore, all remaining tasks, which involve ground disturbance have been included in this ND.

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 further with other agencies or stakeholders.

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 10CFR 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:

1- The SHPO found that no adverse effect would occur at the Heyburn Elementary School, provided that a black shadow bar is used for window replacements. It is therefore required that a black shadow bar be used in these instances at Heyburn Elementary School.

2- St. Maries School District 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

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

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

Date: 8/29/2025

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: _____