

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



RECIPIENT: SolarFlexes LLC

STATE: CT

PROJECT TITLE : Smart, Hardened, Modular PV System for 50-Year Service Life

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0002378

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-EE0009828

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0009828-003

CID Number
GO9828

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:

B5.16 Solar

photovoltaic systems

(a) The installation, modification, operation, or decommissioning of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems:

1. Located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, or mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences); or
2. Located within a previously disturbed or developed area.

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to SolarFlexes LLC for the design, development, fabrication, bench testing, and field testing of a modular, prefabricated solar photovoltaic (PV) array and anchoring system.

Two previous NEPA Determinations (NDs) were completed for all previously defined award activities (GFO-0009828-001: exclusions A9, B3.11, B3.6, signed 12/23/2021; and GFO-0009828-002: exclusions A9, B1.11, B3.6, B5.16, signed 3/12/24). Since that time, the proposed scope of work has expanded to include additional tasks and locations; this ND applies to these new tasks and locations.

Newly proposed project activities would consist of the installation of a 700 kW solar array within the research park at the University of Louisiana Lafayette, in Lafayette, Louisiana. The research park is located within a developed, urbanized area. Racking, anchors, PV modules, inverters, and wiring would be installed in a previously disturbed, vacant field adjacent to an existing 1.1 MW solar test facility and connected to existing infrastructure. Anchors would be set at a depth of 5-7 feet. The proposed area of disturbance would be approximately three acres.

All necessary permits would be obtained prior to commencing activities. Award recipients would adhere to established health and safety policies and procedures when performing project work, and would observe all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

The Tricolored Bat is a species that has been proposed for official listing as endangered and may occur in the project area. It typically inhabits caves, trees, or culverts, none of which occur in the project area. Project activities would occur in an urban area lacking the features needed to support Tricolored Bat habitation. DOE has determined that there would be no effect on species of concern as a result of proposed 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.

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:

Should archaeological materials be observed during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity shall stop, and the area shall be secured. The appropriate State and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the DOE Project Officer shall be contacted immediately in order to help assess the situation and determine how to preserve the resource(s). Compliance with all applicable laws pertaining to archaeological resources is required.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office
NEPA review completed by Andrew McClellan, 26 November 2025

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

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

Date: **11/26/2025**

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: