

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



RECIPIENT: Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

STATE: RI

PROJECT TITLE : Energy Improvements for Rhode Island Public Buildings

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010697	GFO-0010697-002	GO10697

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:

B5.23 Electric vehicle charging stations	The installation, modification, operation, and removal of electric vehicle charging stations, using commercially available technology, within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions are limited to areas where access and parking are 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.
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources to enhance the energy efficiency of facilities occupied by Rhode Island state agencies.

A previous NEPA Determination (ND) was completed for all previously defined award activities (GFO-0010697-001: exclusions A9, B5.1, B5.15, B5.16, B5.23; signed 6/10/2024). Since that time, the proposed scope of work has expanded to include an additional location; this ND applies to this new location.

Newly proposed project activities consist of the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at the Attorney General's Office located at 150 South Main Street in Providence, Rhode Island. Charging stations would be installed in existing parking areas.

EV chargers have been identified as exempt from Section 106 review as they meet the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Exemption from Historic Preservation Review for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment, as installations meet categories outlined in 36 CFR § 800.14(c).

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website identifies one endangered species, the Northern Long-eared Bat, and one proposed endangered species, the Tricolored Bat, which may occur in the proposed project area. The Northern Long-eared Bat typically inhabits caves, mines, trees, or barns, none of which occur in the project area. The Tricolored Bat 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 habitation by either species. 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:

Building Technologies Office
NEPA review completed by Andrew McClellan, 6 January 2026

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Electronically Signed By: Nicole Serio Date: 1/7/2026
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager