

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



RECIPIENT: San Carlos Apache Tribe

STATE: AZ

PROJECT TITLE : San Carlos Hospital Community Microgrid

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-IE0000170	GFO-0000170-002	GO170

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:

B4.14 Construction and operation of electrochemical-battery or flywheel energy storage systems

Construction, operation, upgrade, or decommissioning of an electrochemical-battery or flywheel energy storage system within a previously disturbed or developed area or within a small (as discussed at 10 CFR 1021.410(g)(2)) area contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area. 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 incorporate appropriate safety standards (including the current National Fire Protection Association 855, Standard for the Installation of Energy Storage Systems), design and construction standards, control technologies, and best management practices.

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 the San Carlos Apache Tribe (SCA) to design, develop, and install an integrated microgrid energy system, which would include an approximately 1 megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS), a 750 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) array, and a microgrid controller.

A previous NEPA Determination (ND) was completed for all previously defined award activities (GFO-0000170-001: exclusions A9 and B5.16, signed 6/20/2024). Since that time, the proposed installation location of the solar PV array has been modified. This ND applies to the new location.

Project activities would include administrative and procurement tasks and microgrid system design, installation, and monitoring. The system would be installed at the SCA Healthcare Corporation campus in Peridot, Arizona. The

BESS and microgrid controller would be installed on disturbed ground adjacent to an existing building on the campus.

Previously, the PV array was proposed to be entirely ground-mounted and installed south of the residential area of the campus. As part of the original ND, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, DOE submitted a Request for Review to the SCA Tribal Historic Preservation Office and received concurrence on a determination of no cultural sites or historic properties affected. The updated project proposes to install the majority of the PV array on the roof of the logistics building, construction of which was completed in 2024. The remaining PV panels would be ground-mounted and located in the previously approved area in the south part of campus. This array would occupy approximately one-fifth of the area of the original proposal.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website identifies four species of concern (Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Gila Topminnow, and Monarch Butterfly) which may occur in the proposed project area. There is no critical habitat in the project area. DOE consulted with USFWS, and on 6/18/2024 received a concurrence of no effect on special status species.

There are no wetlands at the project site and it does not occur within the 100-year floodplain.

All necessary permits would be obtained prior to commencing activities. Potential hazards include typical hazards associated with construction, mechanical, and electrical work. 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.

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:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
NEPA review completed by Andrew McClellan, 10 February 2025

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

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

Date: 2/11/2026

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: _____