PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: ND Dept of Commerce, Div of Community Services on behalf of Fort Ransom State STATE: ND Park

**PROJECT** 

Fort Ransom State Park Solar Panel Installation TITLE:

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number Procurement Instrument Number NEPA Control Number CID Number DE-EE0007482 GFO-0007482-001

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:

**A9** Information gathering,

Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information analysis, and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and dissemination informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be 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.

## Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the North Dakota Department of Commerce for the design and installation of a 4.2 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Fort Ransom State Park in Fort Ransom, North Dakota to provide electricity to a maintenance shop, two staff cabins, a cold storage building and a gas house.

The proposed project activities would include the installation of 12- 350 watt solar PV panels, a mounting rack, safety ground anchors, a micro-inverter, and minor electrical improvements. A 15 foot long trench would be dug for an underground cable to connect the micro-inverter at the maintenance shop to a solar control shut off switch on the frame of the PV panels. The trench would be filled in and returned to its original state upon completion of the project. The solar panels would be installed on a gravel parking area. If leveling is required, any excess dirt and gravel would be placed in an established stockpile on site.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Endangered Species Program website (iPac) identifies five endangered or threatened species. However, due to the lack of habitat for federally listed species at the site, the proposed project is not anticipated to affect endangered species in the area.

Although a portion of the PV installation may be near the designated floodplain, Zone AE, the installation is located outside of the 100-year floodplain. The proposed site is not listed on the National Record of Historic Places nor in a historic district.

### NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs Office - SEP Diana Heyder 12/11/2018

#### FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

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. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NE	PA Compliance Officer Signature:	NEPA Compliance Officer	Date: _	12/12/2018
FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION				
<ul><li>☑ Field Office Manager review not required</li><li>☐ Field Office Manager review required</li></ul>				
BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO:				
Field Office Manager's Signature:			Date:	
Field Office Manager				