

PMC-EF2a

201021

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: City of Austin

STATE: TX

PROJECT
TITLE :

Austin Solar Cities Partnership - Rodriguez Elementary School PV System

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-PS36-07GO97007	DE-FC36-07GO17069	GFO-07-131F	GO17069

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

Rational for determination:

This NEPA determination (GFO-07-131F) is the result of Austin Energy choosing a photovoltaic (PV) system installation site. The Original NEPA determination (GFO-07-131; CX A9) required Austin Energy to submit an additional EF1 for each selected solar installation site. Austin Energy (AE) would use DOE and cost share funding for the installation a pole mounted PV system at Austin Independent School District's (AISD) Rodriguez Elementary School Campus.

Austin Energy (AE) would install a 2.5 kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Rodriguez Elementary School Campus as part of AE's Solar Schools program. The project would involve installing a ground-mounted PV system on a pole located at a visible location determined by AISD and AE (open grass plaza north of eastern wing of building). Power from the PV modules would be routed underground to an exterior electrical connection box located on the north wall of the building's east wing.

The PV array (16 PV modules mounted in a sunflower configuration on aluminum racking hardware) would be installed on top of a Schedule 80 steel pipe set in concrete in the ground. Typically the depth of the bore hole is 12 to 14 feet with a 4 foot diameter pending the engineering analysis that would be performed for permitting requirements prior to the installation. AE would work with a qualified and licensed contractor for this work. The contractor would dig the hole using heavy machinery (compact loader with an auger). An eight foot high permanent chain link fence would be erected around the site of the array. This would provide security and safety during and after construction. All the trench work would be dug by the contractor and in coordination with AISD facilities personnel. The trench would run south from the array location to an exterior electrical connection box located at the north wall of the school. The trenches would be dug according to local code. Electrical conductors carrying electricity from the PV array would be routed in conduit (rigid PVC) and according to local code. The trench area will be restored to its original state resulting in as little ground disturbance as possible. Transitions would be made in conduit according to local code.

This project is a small-scale renewable energy development project therefore the DOE has categorized this project as CX B5.1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kurtin Krew
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/25/2010

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____
Field Office Manager

Date: _____