

PMC-EF2a

201002

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



RECIPIENT: City of Austin

STATE: TX

**PROJECT TITLE :** Austin Solar City Partnership - Webb Middle School PV System

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-PS36-07GO97007	DE-FC36-07GO17069	GFO-07-131G	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-07-131G) 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) Webb Middle School Campus.

Austin Energy (AE) would install a 2.5 kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Webb Middle 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 near east entrance at bus drop off area). Power from the PV modules would be routed underground to an interior mechanical room located in the building's basement.

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 by hand the first four feet to make sure buried storm drain lines aren't damaged and then by using heavy machinery (compact loader with an auger). An eight foot high permanent chain link fence would be erected around the array area. This would provide safety and security during and after construction. All the trench work would be hand-dug by the contractor and in coordination with AISD facilities personnel. The trench would run west and end at the east wall of the school. At this point a metal conduit would route the wiring south along the brick wall and down into the basement mechanical room where it would be metered and then interconnect at a panel located on the south wall of the mechanical room. 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 would 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:   
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: \_\_\_\_\_