

PMC-EF2a

(2010)

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



RECIPIENT: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

STATE: TX

**PROJECT TITLE :** ARRA SEP City of Weslaco Solar Project

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-EE0000116	EE0000116		0

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:

The State of Texas will provide \$400,000 to the City of Westlaco to install a 454kw ground-mounted solar photovoltaic system at the City's wastewater treatment plant located at 5210 S. Midway RD, Westlaco, TX. The wastewater treatment plant is currently regulated under the Clean Water Act via TX/EPA Permit ID No. 01163947. The project activities will not affect the current permit or require new operation permits.

The area surrounding the plant is largely agricultural and brush with the exception of a nearby golf course to the south. The solar array will be installed within the plant's grounds. The system calls for high quality designed, engineered, and manufactured ground mounts. The PV modules are to be low-profile and mounted vertically on the rack in portrait-mode. A third party engineering company will be used to approve the design in accordance with local building and wind loading requirements. The design and installation aspects of the solar array on the plant's grounds combined with the plant's operations and its remote location mitigate the risk of aesthetic or environmental concerns.

Based on the information provided by the State and recipient, the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is \$400,000. Unless there is a significant change in the scope of this effort, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5/25/10