

PMC-EF2a

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



(20402)

RECIPIENT: Arizona Department of Commerce SEP ARRA EE0000106

STATE: AZ

PROJECT TITLE : Trico - Community Supported Solar Demo Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		GFO -10-602	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, agricultural, residential, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

Rational for determination:

Trico Electric Cooperative is proposing to use \$933,458 in SEP funding to install a 227 kW DC ground mount fixed tilt Photovoltaic (PV) generation solution (estimated annual output of 388,328 kWh) to be located on Trico's property at 8600 W. Tangerine Road, Marana, AZ 85758. The installation will permit additional generation as participation increases, and the generated electricity will feed directly into the distribution grid.

The proposed project does not entail any modification to any existing structures or buildings, as it will be a ground mount fixed tilt solution on Trico property. Trico is bordered on the north and east by Arizona State Trust Land. Farming and industrial to the south and a mixture of proposed commercial/residential to the west. The closest residence is approximately 3 miles to the west and northwest of Trico. There are not expected to be any impacts to visual resources as a result of the proposed project.

The solar PV array will be mounted to the ground using earth screws which minimize ground disturbance during installation (no dirt removal) and do not affect onsite drainage. The property is fenced and contains no vegetation. There will be minimal trenching to connect the solar array to the electrical grid. All aspects of the proposed project will occur on Trico property. There will be no adverse effects to threatened and endangered species or critical habitat as a result of the proposed project.

A construction permit from the Town of Marana will be sought and obtained prior to the commencement of this project.

No historic buildings or other cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed project. Trico has had an archeological survey completed that assessed the entire property including the site for the proposed project. The survey determined that the area for the proposed project does not contain significant archeological resources.

The recipient has provided documentation of the waste stream management plan that will be in place during construction.

This project is consistent with activities outlined in B5.1; therefore, it is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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: Kristin Kerwin Date: 9/15/2010
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393
Department of Energy

