

**NEPA Determination for the
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
Application submitted by the Native Village of Wales AK
Energy Efficiency Retrofits**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, appropriates funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) to issue/award formula-based grants to states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. DOE's authorization for this program is set forth in Title V, Subtitle E, of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. This CX determination is applicable to DOE elements reviewing and awarding formula-based and competitive grants under the EECBG Program, and includes, but is not limited to, EECBG Program activities under the purview of DOE-HQ Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, DOE Golden Field Office, and the DOE Oak Ridge Office. Energy efficiency retrofits would be conducted by various states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes.

The proposal by the Native Village of Wales involves a retrofit of existing facilities to improve energy efficiency and reduce fossil fuel usage and emissions. Specifically, The Village proposes to perform retrofits on the Wales Community Center to increase the energy efficiency of the Community Center by creating a thermal buffer known as an Arctic Storm Entry between the seasonally sub-zero outside of the building and the diesel heating fuel heated building interior. This feature has proven to be especially effective conservation measure in more recently constructed buildings. Building modifications would be in compliance with local building codes and fire regulations. The Native Village of Wales would purchase all materials and labor and oversee all activities related to EECBG funding. Five jobs would be created for the duration of the project.

The application submitted and the technical review for this proposal do not reveal any extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211. The proposed energy efficiency and conservation activities funded by this grant would not result in an adverse effect to historic properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), would not impact sensitive resources [e.g., threatened and endangered (T/E) species, wetlands and floodplains].

B2.5 and B5.1 are the applicable CXs that cover the proposed action in the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

Based on my review of the above description, I have determined that the above actions are categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation. The DOE Contracting Officer Representative is responsible for oversight of the application of this determination.

M E Martin

Mary E. Martin, NNSA NEPA Compliance Officer

9/8/09

Date