

**NEPA Determination for the
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
Application submitted by the Chippewa Tribe of MN on behalf of the Leech Lake Band
Transportation Programs**

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. Development and implementation of transportation programs to conserve energy and reduce environmental impacts would be conducted by various states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes.

The Leech Band would hire a Transportation Project Manager for the development and implementation of planned tribal transportation programs. The Band has been engaged in a long-term planning process to meet the transportation and mobility needs of tribal members and the project has reached the stage where a full time Project Manager is needed to bring it to fruition. The resulting job will be sustained in the overall Transportation Plan adopted by the Band. The Transportation Strategy is aimed primarily at the tribal public and easing the travel burden many people experience because of the size of the reservation and distances to fundamental services. Full implementation of the strategy would involve the establishment of a reservation wide public transportation schedule and use of tribally produced biodiesel to fuel the tribal buses that will support the program.

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 development and implementation of 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].

B5.1 is 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.



Jane R. Summerson, NEPA Compliance Officer

1/8/10

Date