

**NEPA Determination for the  
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program  
Application submitted by the Chippewa Tribe of MN on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band  
Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings**

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. The use of grant funds for renewable energy technologies on government buildings would be conducted by various states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes.

The Mille Lacs Band of the Chippewa Tribe would utilize EECBG funds to install renewable energy systems (three 1.2 kW Windspire<sup>®</sup> vertical axis wind turbines and 2 solar paneling systems) on 4 government buildings on the reservation:

- Mille Lacs Band Tribal College, (wind)
- Nay Ah Shing Upper/Lower School (solar)
- Mille Lacs Band Community Center (wind)
- Department of Education Charter School (Pine Grove Leadership Academy) (solar/wind)

Solar systems would be roof mounted while wind turbines would be installed on open lawn areas of the respective sites.

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].

B3.6 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.

  
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Jane R. Summerson, NEPA Compliance Officer

  
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Date