

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Idaho Office of Energy Resources

STATE: ID

PROJECT TITLE : SEP ARRA SPSP Wilder School District #133

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE0000141	GFO-0000141-009	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 Wilder School District is proposing to use SEP ARRA funding to purchase components of and install a ground-mounted solar PV array that would supply electricity for the COSSA School located at 109 Penny Lane, Wilder, Idaho 83676. The photovoltaic system would be a 79 kW system that would include two hundred and eighty six (286) 275 watt solar panels, inverters, cables and all appurtenant equipment. The panels would be ground mounted at a thirty five (35) degree angle. The ground mounting system would be 4-inch steel posts set in concrete. The posts would be set every eleven (11) feet in 5 rows for a total of 52 posts. The contractor would use an 8-inch augur to set the posts. The array would be secured by a 6-foot chain link fence. The area excavated by the post holes would be less than 100 square feet. The fenced-in enclosure would be 130 by 250-feet enclosing 32,500-square feet. The area where the solar array would be installed is currently in use as a school playground. The system would be connected to the grid with an underground cable that goes directly east from the solar installation for about 50-feet to a transformer adjacent to the school. All ground where the solar array and associated connections would be installed was previously disturbed and graded during construction of the school. A building permit is required from the City of Wilder. Once the system is installed it would need to have a state electrical permit.

The installation is about one-half mile from Highway 95 and about 300-feet from Penny Lane. The solar installation could be seen by school students, faculty and others having business at the school. There are not expected to be any adverse visual impacts as a result of the proposed project. There are not expected to be any adverse effects to threatened and endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or cultural resources as a result of the proposed project as these resources are not present at the project site.

After a thorough review of the information submitted for the proposed project, it has been determined that the actions involved would not have a significant impact to human health and /or the environment. The proposed project would result in a reduction in the use of conventional fossil fuels; therefore it is hereby Categorical Excluded B5.1 "actions to conserve energy," from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

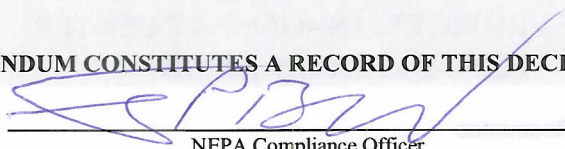
Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

EF2a completed by Logan Sholar

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

6/20/11

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: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____

Rational for determination:

The Wilder School District is proposing to use SEP ARRA funding to purchase components of and install a ground-mounted solar PV array that would supply electricity for the COSSA School located at 108 Penny Lane, Wilder, Idaho 83878. The photovoltaic system would be a 78 kW system that would include two hundred and eighty six (286) 275 watt solar panels, inverters, cables and all appurtenant equipment. The panels would be ground mounted at a thirty five (35) degree angle. The ground mounting system would be 4-inch steel posts set in concrete. The posts would be set every eleven (11) feet in a row for a total of 82 posts. The contractor would use an 8-inch auger to set the posts. The array would be secured by a 6-foot chain link fence. The area excavated by the post holes would be less than 100 square feet. The fence-in enclosure would be 100 by 280-feet enclosing 28,000-square feet. The area where the solar array would be installed is currently in use as a school playground. The system would be connected to the grid with an underground cable that goes directly east from the solar installation for about 50-feet to a transformer adjacent to the school. All ground where the solar array and associated connections would be installed was previously disturbed and graded during construction of the school. A building permit is required from the City of Wilder. Once the system is installed it would need to have a state electrical permit.

The installation is about one-half mile from Highway 85 and about 300-feet from Penny Lane. The solar installation could be seen by school students, faculty and others having business at the school. There are not expected to be any adverse visual impacts as a result of the proposed project. There are not expected to be any adverse effects to threatened and endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or cultural resources as a result of the proposed project as these resources are not present at the project site.

After a thorough review of the information submitted for the proposed project, it has been determined that the actions involved would not have a significant impact to human health and the environment. The proposed project would result in a reduction in the use of conventional fossil fuels; therefore it is hereby Categorical Excluded B5.1 actions to conserve energy, from further NEPA review.

NEPA REVIEW
DOE has made a final NEPA determination for the award.

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Special: