

PMC-EF2a

(2014.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Lower Providence Township

STATE: PA

PROJECT TITLE : Feasibility Study and Design of "Brightfield" Solar Farm

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-EE0003164	DE-EE0003164	GFO-0003164-002	GO3164

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:

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Lower Providence Township (LPT) of Pennsylvania to install and connect a solar photovoltaic (PV) array. DOE funding would be used to purchase and install an educational-use solar PV array on two Public Works Garages and build an educational kiosk/building.

DOE made a previous NEPA determination, GFO-0003164-001 (CX A9, B5.1 04.12.2011) for a ground mounted solar PV installation at the Municipal Complex, the feasibility study at the Moyer Landfill and educational outreach including curriculum development. This NEPA analysis applies to the new proposed location at the Public Works Complex for a roof mounted PV installation and a proposed educational kiosk/building in Eskie Park.

The proposed solar PV array would be installed at the LPT Public Works Complex, located at 500 Church Road, Eagleville, Pennsylvania 19403. The complex is located in a residential area with open space to the northeast, east and south and is a previously disturbed area. The primary, 22.8 kW solar PV array would be installed on Garage #1, adjacent to Eskie Park with a roof surface oriented towards the southeast. The garage was built in 2007 and is 84 ft. long by 44ft. wide. The second installation, 6.8 kW, would be installed on Garage #2, built in 1987 and 125 ft. long by 38 ft. wide. Sharp 240 Watt multi-purpose solar PV panels would be used for the installation. The system would be grid-tied and any excess electricity not being used by the Public Works Department would be back-fed into the grid. The Township would be responsible for maintaining the system.

No adverse visual impacts would occur to the surrounding area. The primary solar installation on Garage #1 would face Eskie Park, which would enable the community to view the solar installation in conjunction with an educational kiosk. The solar installation on Garage #2 would be buffered from the view of any adjacent properties.

A kiosk/building would be constructed adjacent to the Public Works Garage buildings, in Eskie Park. The kiosk would house a flat screen monitor, connected to a computer, showing real-time data from the solar installation. The monitor would be viewable through a glass or plastic pane. The kiosk/building would be a small secure building, no larger than 8 ft. wide by 10 ft. long, mounted on a small concrete pad. There would be no more than 75 ft. of trenching at a maximum depth of 36 in. connecting the kiosk/building to Garage 1 on the Public Works Garage site. Eskie Park is a previously disturbed site currently encompassing a playground, basketball court and soccer field.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website identifies two species in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania; the Indiana Bat and the Bald Eagle. DOE has determined that the PV solar installations and kiosk/building would be small in scale, have minimal ground disturbance at a previously disturbed site and are not likely to adversely affect the endangered species in the area. Other resources, including wetlands, floodplains and

cultural resources would not be adversely affected as they are not known to occur at the proposed location.

Based on the review of project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the installation of two solar PV arrays at the Public Works Complex and educational kiosk/building would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed installation is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "information gathering," and B5.16, "solar photovoltaic systems," and 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:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

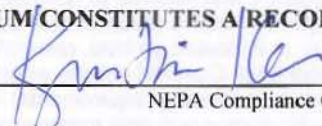
Note to Specialist :

Kelly Daigle 12/12/2012

DOE Funding: \$200,000
Cost Share/Leveraged: \$44,484
Total Project Cost: \$244,484

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

12/12/2012

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: