

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: City of Houston

STATE: TX

PROJECT TITLE : EECBG Program - City of Houston, TX

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000013	DE-EE0000965	GFO-0000965-003	GO965

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 or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the City of Houston, Texas under the DOE's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The City of Houston proposes to use \$1,443,369 to install B-Cycle bicycle sharing stations.

Two previous NEPA determinations were made (GFO -0000965-001 B5.1 12/12/2012; GFO -0000965-002 B5.1 5/16/2013) which included 20 B-cycle bicycle sharing stations and two-way bike lane striping. This NEPA determination applies to the addition of nine (9) new B-Cycle sharing stations under Phase 3 of the award. B-Cycle stations include bicycle docks (racks) and a kiosk, and would sit on existing paved surfaces, within public rights-of-way such as sidewalks.

This NEPA determination applies to the following stations and locations: #23 (Spotts Park), #24 (Fairview and Taft), #25 (Randalls Midtown), #26 (Menil), #27 (Leonel Castillo Center), #28 (Project Row House), #29 (Settegest Park), #30 (1600 Smith), and #31 (Stude Park).

The B-Cycle stations would be configured as a single or double-sided station. The station would lock the bicycle at the hub, using two robust locking mechanisms to double secure the bicycle. All bikes would be equipped with Radio Frequency Identification and GPS technology and are specially designed for all riders. A small kiosk like stand, attached to each station would allow walk-up users to purchase memberships, check in/out and provide the nearest bike/dock availability.

In a letter dated July 30, 2013 the Texas State Historic Preservation Office determined the proposed addition of nine stations would have No Adverse Effect on National Register listed or eligible properties.

The City of Houston is designated nonattainment for the eight-hour ozone National Ambient air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and one-hour ozone NAAQS. Due to the minimal amount of construction expected, the nature of the project and the expected decrease in air emissions from the proposed bicycle sharing stations, DOE has determined that the bicycle sharing stations would not have any adverse impacts to emission levels of ozone. The proposed project would be installed at existing locations, in areas that have been previously disturbed. The proposed bicycle sharing would not have adverse effects on threatened and endangered species, floodplains and wetlands, as these resources are not known to occur at the proposed sites.

Based on the review of project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the installation of the nine proposed bicycle sharing stations would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions B5.1, "actions to conserve energy," 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 :

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Kelly Daigle 9/3/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/4/2013

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: _____