

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: City of Perth Amboy, NJ

STATE: NJ

PROJECT TITLE : Municipal Complex Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0003172	GFO-0003172-002	

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.)

**B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects**

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the City of Perth Amboy, New Jersey to develop the Municipal Complex Solar Project. DOE funding would be used to install a 16,170 watt (~16 kilowatt) solar photovoltaic (PV) rooftop array at the Perth Amboy Municipal Marina Building. DOE funding would also be used to engage and educate the community through the installation of a kiosk that would display energy savings data. This NEPA determination does not apply to the installation of the kiosk.

DOE made a previous NEPA determination (GFO-0003172-001 CXB5.1 9/7/2011) which reviewed the installation and operation of a rooftop solar panel array at the Perth Amboy Municipal Complex located at 365 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The City has decided to change project locations. This NEPA determination applies to the relocation of that proposed rooftop solar array to the Perth Amboy Marina Building located at 260B Front St, Perth Amboy, New Jersey 08861.

The Municipal Marina Building houses the Port Authority offices where boat slips, charter fishing trips and docks are rented. The building was constructed in 1998 and has a maximum height of 17 feet. The City would install three PV arrays on the southeast and southwest roofs with a maximum dimension of 40 feet wide by 11 feet long. The solar PV installation would be grid connected and no trenching would occur.

Municipal Marina Building is located within a 100 year floodplain. All solar panel array installation work would occur on an existing structure with no impediment to the flow of water and no impacts to the floodplain. Due to the location within a flood zone, DOE cannot make a NEPA determination for any kiosk location until more information is provided regarding the location of installation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species website identifies two species within Middlesex, New Jersey: Indiana Bat and the Piping Plover. DOE has determined that PV solar installation would have no ground disturbance at a previously disturbed site and is not likely to adversely affect the resources in the area. The proposed scope of work would not have any adverse impacts to cultural resources or wetlands, as these resources are not known to occur at the proposed site.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the installation of a solar PV array and outreach and education activities would not have significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that the work outlined is consistent with the actions identified in categorical

exclusion A9, "information gathering," and B5.16 "solar photovoltaic systems" and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

The installation of the proposed kiosk.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

The installation of three solar PV arrays at the Municipal Marina Building.

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Kelly Daigle 8/23/2013

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

8/26/2013

**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:

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