

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:**New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

**STATE:** NY

**PROJECT TITLE :** Randall's Island WATTS (Wind and Tidal Technology System)

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	GO86097	GFO-86097-002	

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:

<b>B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems</b>	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.
---	--

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to install a wind, solar and tidal energy power station on the south shore of Randall's Island, New York. DOE funding would be used to complete system design, component testing and the installation of an operational 120 kW power module that would integrate the three technologies.

DOE made a previous NEPA determination (GFO-06-093, A9, B3.1, B3.6 5/15/2006) which included work related to project administration, system design, preliminary studies and site evaluation, community outreach and preliminary component fabrication and testing related to the marine and hydrokinetic unit.

This NEPA determination applies to the installation of a 5 KW pole-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system only. All other activities have not been defined to the extent that DOE can make a NEPA determination and are conditioned pending further NEPA review.

The proposed location is comprised of a flat 480 acre island parcel that sits between the Harlem River and East River, just north of Roosevelt Island in New York City. The entrance to the island is from the Harlem River Drive via either the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge or the Ward's Island Bridge. The solar installation would be installed on previously disturbed land adjacent to an existing parking area. The installation would be 21 ft. 9 in. long by 16 ft. 10 in. wide by 9 ft. 6 in. tall. The foundation of the installation would be helical piles, driven 17 inches into the ground. The installation would require 900 feet of trenching adjacent to a road corridor at a depth of 18 inches and would be grid connected. The system would have a wind rating of 110 miles per hour.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program website identifies one species, the Northern long eared bat, in New York County as eligible for listing as threatened or endangered. Because the project would be located on previously disturbed land, low to the ground and not near any potential habitat such as old growth or forested areas, DOE has determined the project is not likely to affect the listed species. The proposed scope of work would not have any adverse impacts to cultural resources, floodplains 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 solar installation 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 exclusion 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:

This NEPA determination applies to the installation of a 5 KW pole-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system only. All other proposed deployment activities have not been defined to the extent that DOE can make a NEPA determination and are conditioned pending further NEPA review.

All activities not including the installation of the solar PV system.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Installation of the solar PV system.

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 11/19/2013

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

12/2/2013

**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: \_\_\_\_\_