

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

STATE: IL

PROJECT TITLE : Innovative Energy Program - Shedd Energy Storage Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000817	DE-EE-0006225	GFO-0006225-001	

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:

B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.

Rationale for determination:

The Department of Energy is proposing to provide funding to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to purchase and install a large-scale energy storage system (approximately 450 kWh), which would be sited on the Shedd Aquarium's campus and align with the Aquarium's proposed solar installation and building automation investments.

The State of Illinois is proposing to install a large lithium battery system which would be stored in a shipping container in an area approximately 40 ft. long and 15 feet wide. The container would be placed behind the loading dock on a paved parking lot. The site would be located behind an 8 foot tall fence with landscaping around the fence line. Electrical lines from the storage system to the Shedd Aquarium electrical rooms would be located below ground. The battery storage system would include a fire safety system (gas fire suppression) inside the enclosure to protect against any fire hazard.

The Shedd Aquarium is a National Landmark. The Illinois State Historic Preservation Office reviewed the proposed project and concurred with the Department of Energy's finding of no adverse effect.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program website identifies five candidate, threatened, proposed, or endangered species that are known to, or are believed to occur near the project site in Cook County, Illinois. However, due to the lack of potential habitat for any the species at the project site, lack of critical habitat in the vicinity of the site and the previously disturbed and developed condition of the site; DOE has determined the proposed project would not adversely affect threatened and endangered species in the area.

Prime farmland, wetlands, and floodplains, are not known to occur at the project site. Therefore, no impacts to these resources are anticipated.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the purchase and installation of an approximately 450kWh battery storage in the parking lot of the loading dock of the Shedd Aquarium, 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 B1.31 "Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment" 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:

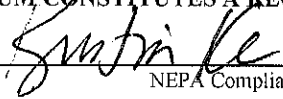
If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing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

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision

Submitted by Diana Heyder 2/13/2014

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/10/2014

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: _____