

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Barrington Power, LLC**STATE:** NH**PROJECT TITLE:** BP Plymouth UU Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0008658	GFO-0008658-004	

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), 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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives to provide a loan to the NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) to install a 35 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) ground mounted system located at Starr King Unitarian Universalist in Plymouth, NH. The project would supply electricity to the church as well as be connected to the grid through an interconnection agreement with the local utility company .

The proposed PV array would consist of five inverters with 80 solar panels and the associated racking system. The site could require minor grading. Approximately 20 -2' bored vertical holes to support steel pipe in concrete holes would be dug 6' deep for the pole foundations supporting the solar racking structure. In addition, a temporary trench approximately 265' long would be dug to connect the PV installation to the utility meter at the back of the church.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) lists the threatened Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) as possibly occurring within the project area. Tree removal at the project site could affect the NLEB, if present. DOE initiated a streamlined Section 7 consultation with USFWS for NLEB and determined that this project may affect the NLEB but that any resulting incidental take of the NLEB is not prohibited by the final 4(d) rule for the species. During the streamlined consultation 30-day USFWS comment period, the sub-recipient removed the trees in the project area. However, the tree removal was outside of the pup season, from June 1 – July 31, which is the most likely time to impact NLEB in maternity roost trees. No comments were received from USFWS through the 30-day comment period.

The recipient worked directly with their State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to ensure protection of cultural resources during the project activities. The SHPO reviewed the proposed project activities and the site location, and determined, "No Historic Properties Effectuated" on March 11, 2021. DOE is in agreement with this determination from the New Hampshire SHPO.

The proposed project is not located within the 100-year floodplain.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs Office - SEP
 This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
 NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 5/13/21

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 5/17/2021

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
 Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____