

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Children's Museum of Eau Claire (subrecipient of WI Office of Energy Innovation) **STATE:** WI

PROJECT TITLE: Wisconsin Energy Innovation Grant 2020 - Activity 1 Renewable Energy and Battery Storage

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
SEP-ALRD-2020	DE-EE-0008669	GFO-0008669-007	

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.
- B5.19 Ground source heat pumps** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available smallscale ground source heat pumps to support operations in single facilities (such as a school or community center) or contiguous facilities (such as an office complex) (1) only where (a) major associated activities (such as drilling and discharge) are regulated, and (b) appropriate leakage and contaminant control measures would be in place (including for cross-contamination between aquifers); (2) that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in subsurface temperature; and (3) would be located 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 Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation through the Energy Innovation Grant Program to install a rooftop 127 kW photovoltaic (PV) system with a 40-kW battery storage system and a ground source heat pump at the Children's Museum of Eau Claire (CMEC).

The CMEC is constructing a 25,000 square foot building with a 2,000 square foot outdoor green space at 126 N. Barstow Street in Eau Claire, WI. The goal to operate the building as a carbon neutral energy structure would partially be accomplished through the renewable energy efforts of this project. The CMEC would be constructed regardless of the DOE funding, so the construction of the museum is not part of this NEPA review.

The roof of the CMEC has been designed to accommodate the proposed PV system, and the PV system would not be visible from the public right of way. The battery storage system would be in the 1st floor mechanical and electrical room. The underground pipes for the ground source heat pump would be utilized in two different parts of the building. One part of the ground source heat pump would be connected to the rooftop air handling transfer unit for both hot and cool air and has a 68-ton capacity. Additionally, a 52-ton capacity unit would be in the mechanical room for heat only. The geothermal heat exchanger would utilize a vertical bore system with disturbance for the borefield occurring within the area already being disturbed as part of ongoing construction activities.

The proposed project is located within the 100-year floodplain. After evaluation of the potential impacts, DOE has determined that the buried pipes would not have short-term or long-term adverse impacts to the floodplain. All other equipment would be installed above the designated 100-year floodplain. Additionally, DOE has determined that the project activities are not subject to the preparation and distribution of a notice of floodplain action as required under Subpart B of 10 CFR 1022 "Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements", as the project is a minor addition to a facility already planned to be built to improve environmental conditions and the

requirement is not applicable (10 CFR 1022.5(3)).

An existing Programmatic Agreement with the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office would be applicable to all activities proposed as part of this project. This Programmatic Agreement exempts the undertakings to be performed from Section 106 review. Accordingly, DOE has determined that there would be no potential to affect historic properties.

Any changes to the project activities or location are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for Federal funding unless and until the Contracting Officer provides written authorization on those additions or modifications.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office – State Energy Program
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 09/23/2021

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: _____

 Electronically Signed By: **Casey Strickland**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/23/2021

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: _____