

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



RECIPIENT: Brown County Public Library

STATE: IN

PROJECT TITLE : Brown County Public Library

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	GFO-EE-0008647	GFO-0008647-001	

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.)

**B5.1 Actions
to conserve
energy or
water**

(a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

**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 State of Indiana for the installation of two solar photovoltaic (PV) carports, an electric vehicle (EV) charging station, a facility wide LED retrofit, and building management system upgrades at the Brown County Public Library in Nashville, IN. The PV carport is anticipated to generate 168,000kWh of electricity for direct use at the library. The EV Charger would also help promote the use of electric vehicles which is a priority for the Brown County community.

Prior to this NEPA review, ground disturbing activities including the removal of landscaping, trenching for underground

conduit infrastructure, and the placement of concrete foundations were completed. Consequently, DOE is no longer proposing to provide funding for those activities. This NEPA determination applies only to the installation of the PV carport, EV charging station, LED retrofit, and building management system upgrades, and none of the ground disturbing activities.

Current proposed activities would include the installation of two PV carport structures in the library's southern parking lot covering 9,320 sq. feet of parking lot for approximately 34 parking spots. The EV charging station would require a pedestal mount between two designated parking spots that supports two electric vehicles charging in parallel for community use located underneath the PV carport structure. Lastly, efficiency upgrades would include upgrading facilities building management systems, and the installation of approximately 250 LED lights in a facility-wide retrofit.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) lists two mammals (Northern Long-eared Bat and Indiana Bat), an insect (Monarch Butterfly), and eight migratory birds (Bald Eagle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Cerulean Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rusty Blackbird, and Wood Thrush) as possibly occurring in the project area. However, due to the nature of the project (i.e., PV carport and EV charging station installations on already disturbed ground and building management system upgrades with a LED retrofit), it is unlikely that any of the species of concern would be present in the project area. Additionally, the proposed project site is outside of the critical habitat of all listed species. Accordingly, DOE has determined the proposed project will have no effect on federally listed threatened or endangered species. Further, DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts to migratory bird species.

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 did not identify "any historic buildings, structures, districts, or objects listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places within the probable area of potential effects." on March 11, 2021, and February 10, 2022. DOE is in agreement with this determination from the Indiana SHPO.

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.

The project site is outside of the 100-year floodplain.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office – State Energy Program
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 2/22/2022

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: 2/23/2022

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: _____