

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



RECIPIENT: City of College Park

STATE: GA

PROJECT TITLE : Solar Resiliency for Critical Facilities

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
2021	DE-EE0009477	GFO-0009477-002	

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 is proposing to provide funding to the State of Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for a roof mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) installation with a battery storage system at the City of College Park Public Safety Complex in College Park, GA.

The City of College Park is proposing to install an approximate 90 kW roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array with a connected 39kW hour battery storage system. The solar array would consist of approximately 224 Panels, two inverters, and a racking system. Specifications for installation of the panels would include the panel tilt at 15 degrees with an orientation of 170 degrees, to minimize potential glare issues to the air traffic control tower at the nearby Hartsfield Jackson International Airport. The battery storage system would be placed on previously disturbed ground and would require an approximate 5' by 10' concrete pad. Underground wiring would require trenching to connect the battery storage system to the PV system on the building. Beyond the addition of the electrical connections, no other building modifications would be required.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation database shows one candidate insect (Monarch Butterfly), and two migratory birds (Red-headed Woodpecker and Bald Eagle) with the potential to occur in the project area. Because of the nature of the project (i.e., concrete placement and trenching on already disturbed ground), 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 the candidate species. Further, DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts to the migratory bird species.

The State of Georgia has a Programmatic Agreement with their State Historic Preservation Office. This Programmatic Agreement exempts the PV installation from Section 106 review, since it is not visible from the public right of way. DOE reviewed the placement of the battery storage system and determined that there would be no potential to affect historic properties due to other utility boxes in the area, even though the property is located in the College Park Historic District.

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

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 modifications.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

The installation of the rooftop photovoltaic solar panels is restricted to a tilt of 15 degrees with an orientation of 170 degrees, due to the proximity of Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, and potential glare issues to the air traffic control tower.

Notes:

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office - State Energy Program
This NEPA Determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 3/30/2022

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:

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

Date: 3/30/2022

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: _____