

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: City of Elizabeth

STATE: NJ

PROJECT TITLE : Installation of Solar Panels at Municipal Owned Facilities

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0003195	GFO-0003195-003	GO3195

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:

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the City of Elizabeth to install and/or replace pedestrian signs, beacon stop signs, and portable message signs throughout the City in order to further their mission to develop the solar industry within their borders. The project's ancillary goals are to (1) reduce energy costs; (2) reduce dependence on energy produced from non-renewable sources; and (3) identify a sound long-term financial investment to increase the utilization of energy produced on-site from renewable sources.

This award previously received a NEPA determination (GFO-0003195-001; CX-A9 and CX-B5.1; 5/26/2011) for Phase I activities excluding installation of panels at any of the selected sites that were 50 years old or older. After consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer on the previously-selected, historical sites and ultimately excluding and replacing them with non-historic sites, a second NEPA determination (GFO-0003195-002; CX-B5.16; 7/30/2014) was completed for the remaining Phase I activities. This third NEPA review is for Phase II (Task 6) activities related to the installation of solar-powered signs. Many of these signs would simply replace already existing electric-powered signs; however, some would involve new installations. As some of these signs would be located in the historic district of the City of Elizabeth this determination will be applicable to only those replacements and new installations that fall outside the historic district. All work inside the historic district is prohibited until such time as the State Historic Preservation Officer has authorized the solar-powered signs within the district, at which time another NEPA review will be required.

The proposed project activities include removing grid-tied stop, pedestrian crossing, bridge height and variable message signs currently in place and replacing them with solar-powered, stand-alone units as well as installing solar-powered, stand-alone units in areas that currently have no signs and are in need. For stop and pedestrian crossing signs, new sign installation would consist of installing new sign posts, approximately 2 feet deep between the curb and

sidewalk within the public right-of-way. Bridge height signs would be replacement only and variable message signs are mobile and do not require installation.

No known potential health and safety hazards exist for this project; therefore, no new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations would be necessary. All concrete, steel sign posts and aluminum street signs would be recycled and any solid wastes would be disposed of in accordance with local and state disposal regulations.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that Phase 2 activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B5.1 "Actions to conserve energy or water" and are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Any and all installations of solar-powered signage within the historical district.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Any installation of solar-powered signage outside the historical district.

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Congressionally Directed Project

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord, 03/10/2015

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

3/16/2015

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: _____