

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Tonto Apache Tribe

STATE: AZ

PROJECT TITLE : Tonto Apache Solar - Phase II

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001021	DE-EE0006946	GFO-0006946-001	

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:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	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.)
<b>B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems</b>	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.
<b>B5.17 Solar thermal systems</b>	The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available smallscale solar thermal systems (including, but not limited to, solar hot water systems) located on or contiguous to a building, and 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 Tonto Apache Tribe (TAT) would utilize DOE and cost share funds to install commercially available solar thermal and solar photovoltaics (PV) at four of the tribe's facilities. Under this project, the installed solar systems would be a mixture of roof mount, ground mount, and solar shade structure arrays on and around the four tribal buildings. The project would be located on the Tonto Apache Reservation in Payson, AZ at the Community Center, the Tonto Market, the Water Treatment Facility, and the Water Tower. Project tasks include design work, engineering, construction, interconnection, and reporting. This project is an expansion of previous work completed under a different award that received a separate NEPA Determination (GFO-0006477-001) on 01/02/2014 for solar PV installations at buildings adjacent to the ones proposed for this project.

Modules planned for the Community Center would be a combination of roof mounted and parking canopy mounted solar thermal. Both the Water Treatment Facility and the Water Tower would have ground mounted solar PV systems installed and the Tonto Market would have a combination of roof and ground mounted solar PV installed. All project activities would occur within existing disturbance or on the roofs of existing buildings. Reservation land was given to the Tribe in 1972 and the buildings involved in this project were built after that time. All four of the facilities are located next to the highly trafficked multi-story Mazatzal Hotel and Casino. Due to the existing disturbance and the highly trafficked nature of the project area, DOE has determined that neither biological nor cultural/historic resources would be affected by project activities. There were no other resources of concern found during review of the proposed project activities.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined that the project activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," B5.16 "Solar photovoltaic systems," and B5.17 "Solar thermal systems," and are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.  
Tribal Energy Program  
Casey Strickland 04/21/15

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 4/22/2015  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager