

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:** Bishop Paiute Tribe Environmental Management Office

**STATE:** CA

**PROJECT TITLE:** Residential Solar Project

**Funding Opportunity Announcement Number**  
DE-FOA-0001021

**Procurement Instrument Number**  
DE-EE0006949

**NEPA Control Number**  
GFO-0006949-001

**CID Number**

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:

**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:

DOE is proposing to provide funding to the Bishop Paiute Tribe (Tribe) to design, install, and inspect at least 58 kW of roof mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) via 22 grid-tied and net-metered systems. These systems would be installed, one-each, on 22 existing owner-occupied, single-family homes for low-income families on the Tribe's Reservation in Bishop, California. Over the past two years the Tribe has worked with the same non-profit solar installer that is the Sub-recipient on this award to install 87 kW of solar PV systems on 26 residences on the Reservation.

All installations would occur on the roofs of existing houses. No ground disturbing activities are needed to implement the project. Any permits needed for the installations would be obtained by the Sub-recipient prior to installation. Proposed work would occur on Tribal Trust land and no Bureau of Indian Affairs involvement is necessary because the Tribe is not requesting a surface lease, access road right of way or power line right of way. All residences planned for installations are less than 40 years old and there are no historic properties or districts listed on the National Register in or near the project area. Due to the project area's location and nature of the installations, DOE has determined that neither protected 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," and B5.16 "Solar photovoltaic 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 04/23/15

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin 

Date: 4/28/2015

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:

Field Office Manager

Date: