

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

STATE: WI

PROJECT TITLE: Solar Electric Deployment on Tribal Facilities

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-ROA-0001021	DE-EE0006948	GFO-0006948-001	

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:

**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 federal funding to the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin to install up to 695 kilowatts of solar electric modules on the roofs of up to 9 Tribal facilities located in central and eastern portions of the Oneida Reservation.

The Oneida Tribe proposes to install racks, boxes, and solar electric modules on the roofs of nine facilities owned by the Tribe. Inverter equipment, conduit, conductors, disconnects and other hardware would also be installed; however, no work would be performed outside of the buildings' perimeters. All electricity generated would be used for the building on which the solar electric module is installed. The solar electric modules would not be tied into the grid so no interconnection agreements are expected to be required. The nine locations chosen for this project are as follows: Irene Moore Activity Center on Airport Rd. in Green Bay, WI (170 kW); Turtle Elementary School on Seminary Rd. in Oneida, WI (100 kW); Health Center on Airport Rd in Oneida, WI (100 kW); Norbert Hill Center on Seminary Rd in Oneida, WI (90 kW); Gaming Warehouse on Airport Rd in Green Bay, WI (80 kW); Elder Services Apartments on South Overland Rd in Oneida, WI (95 kW); Land Management Office on Airport Rd in Oneida, WI (20 kW); Food Distribution Center on Water Circle Pl in Oneida, WI (20 kW); and Police Headquarters on Freedom Rd in Oneida, WI (20 kW). This project would require a building permit, electrical permit, and other zoning and organizational approvals all of which would be obtained before installation commences.

This project would pose potential fall and electrical hazards; however, only contractors with appropriate credentials and staff that are trained and certified in electrical and solar installation work would be allowed to bid on this project. Design of solar electric systems would follow all federal, state, and Tribal electric standards and codes, including the National Electric Code. An installation safety plan would be put in place for each facility that addresses fall and electrical hazards and other hazards identified throughout the project. Solar electric installation training for Tribal electricians is a part of the Work Plan for this project. Additionally, the installation of equipment on the roof of each facility could potentially exceed the structural limits of the roof. A structural analysis of each facility would be performed to confirm that the equipment will be within safe parameters of roof loading limits prior to installation. All appropriate labeling and signage would be employed to identify equipment and hazard potential, per NEC standards and an operations and maintenance manual would be created for all facilities that addresses all safety considerations. No liquid or solid materials or waste will be used or produced during operation of this project. Packaging material used during shipping of system components will be the only waste generated during construction. This material can be safely landfilled or recycled; therefore, no siting, construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions/facilities would be required. There are 24



historic properties/districts in Green Bay (none in Oneida). However, the closest historic site to any of the proposed project sites is at least 6 miles away and on the opposite side of the Fox River. None of the nine proposed project locations are historic or even eligible to be listed as historic. Therefore, no impact to historic properties is anticipated.

Based on the information above, DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusion B5.16 "Solar photovoltaic systems" and is therefore 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 :

Tribal Energy Program  
This determination does NOT require a tailored NEPA provision.  
Review completed by Rebecca McCord, 05/27/2015

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

Date: 6/4/2015

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