

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 Tribe Solar, Phase II

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001021	DE-EE0006946	GFO-0006946-002	

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:

The Tonto Apache Tribe would utilize DOE and cost share funds to install commercially available solar photovoltaics (PV) at a Tribal facility. Originally a NEPA Determination (GFO-0006946-001) was completed on April 22, 2015 that reviewed a solar thermal installation at the Community Center and approximately 172 kilowatts of solar PV installations at three Tribal facilities (the Tonto Market, the Water Treatment Facility, and the Water Tower) on the Tonto Apache Reservation adjacent to the town of Payson, AZ. Since that NEPA Determination the Tribe has decided not to install the solar thermal system at the Community Center or the PV at those three locations because of future growth expectations and would instead install only a roof mounted PV system on the Mazatzal Hotel also located on the Reservation. This NEPA Determination is to review the new location of the PV installation. This project is an expansion of previous work completed under a different award that received a separate NEPA Determination (GFO-0006477-001) on January 2, 2014 for solar PV installations at buildings adjacent to the one proposed for this revision.

The solar PV system planned for the Mazatzal Hotel is an approximate 249 kilowatt ballasted roof mounted system requiring no roof penetrations. There would be no change in the use of the existing facility but the roof racking, electric conduit work, and meter hookup would require minor modifications to the facility. Only one interconnection point with the utility service would be needed. No ground disturbing activities are required. The present Reservation land was acquired by the Tribe in the 1970s and the building involved in this installation and the surrounding buildings within view of the installation were built after that time. The Mazatzal Hotel is a highly trafficked multi-story facility and there are already existing solar PV systems on adjacent buildings on the Reservation. Due to the location of the planned activities, existing adjacent PV systems, 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 with the potential to be affected by 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.
Indian Energy
Casey Strickland 10/29/15

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 11/2/2015
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