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



RECIPIENT: Blue Ridge Parkway, National Park Service

STATE: NC

PROJECT TITLE : Incorporation of Solar Powered Safety Lights Along the Blue Ridge Parkway

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000901	DE-EE0006621	GFO-0006621-001	

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:

B5.1 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 Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the National Parks Service for the proposed 'Incorporation of Solar Powered Safety Lights Along the Blue Ridge Parkway' project. The National Parks Service is proposing to replace existing safety lights on gates and signs along the Blue Ridge Parkway with solar powered light units. This project was selected by DOE under the Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies (AFFECT) Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0000901).

The Blue Ridge Parkway is a 469 mile long motor road located in Virginia and North Carolina. The park has many access points along its length that allow the public to enter or leave the mainline at various places along its length. At times during the year, especially during winter or inclement weather, the parkway becomes unsafe for vehicular travel. To limit travel during these unsafe times, gates and signs with flashing safety lights are placed along the mainline to warn the public of the unsafe conditions and to prevent entry on the Parkway. At the present time, most of these lights are powered by two 6-volt alkaline batteries. This project would utilize funds made available through DOE to purchase solar safety lights for installation on gates and signs along the Blue Ridge Parkway mainline road. DOE funds would be paired with Parkway provided labor to remove alkaline battery-powered lights and install and operate the solar powered lights on the gates and signs. The lights units are self-contained with a small solar array located directly on the safety light. The entire light measures approximately 12" tall x 8" long x 4" wide with the solar panel located either on the base or the top of the light.

DOE has determined that the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or the environment. Further, replacing battery powered lighting with solar powered lighting is consistent with DOE CX B5.1 "Actions to conserve energy" 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 :

This determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/28/2014

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: _____