

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:**Chippewa Cree Tribe**STATE:** MT**PROJECT TITLE**
: Chippewa Cree Tribe Deployment of Clean Energy Solar PV Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001390	DE-IE0000047	GFO-0000047-001	

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:

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.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

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 Chippewa Cree Tribe to deploy clean energy systems in order to achieve the Tribe's long-term goals of energy self-sufficiency and environmental protection through a partnership with GRID Alternatives. This partnership would endeavor to install six solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on homes within the Rocky Boy Reservation. These installations would provide hands-on, solar-installation training to at least 10 Tribal community volunteers and job trainees.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include designing, installing, and interconnecting solar PV arrays totaling at least 21 kW on the rooftops of six homes across the Reservation; and developing and offering warranty, operations and maintenance, and monitoring training classes. Slight modifications (installation of conduit and wiring) to the electrical systems of these homes would be made in order to facilitate tie-in to the grid and no ground disturbance would be necessary. No impact to sensitive resources is anticipated as a result of proposed project activities.

Existing tribal health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, etc. Minimal, non-hazardous waste, consisting of packaging, wire and conduit scraps would be generated. Recyclable materials would be recycled, and the remainder would be disposed of through normal waste streams.

Based on the information above, DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination", A11 "Technical advice and assistance to organizations" and 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 the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Office of Indian Energy
This determination does NOT require a tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Rebecca McCord, 04/25/2016

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin  Date: 4/29/2016
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