

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Railroad Valley Farms

STATE: NV

PROJECT TITLE : Railroad Valley Farms Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number Procurement Instrument Number NEPA Control Number CID Number
 GFO-NVSEP2017-001

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 funding to the Nevada State Energy Office to install a solar project at Railroad Valley Farms' hay farm 30 miles off-grid to reduce their dependency on diesel fuel for irrigation of their land.

The proposed project activities include the installation of a 611 kW solar project to power 2 separate well pumps with battery storage on dedicated farmland in Nye County, NV. Each complete system would consist of a 305.5 kW array of Tier 1 Photovoltaic (PV) modules mounted to a single-axis tracking system. This would be connected via string optimizers to a solar pumping inverter/VFD control unit which would then be connected to a newly-converted 200 kW diesel generator. Electrical service would be provided to this inverter by way of pre-existing underground cable connected to a new inverter-duty electrical pump motor.

These installations would replace existing diesel engines so no new ground disturbance would be necessary and no impact to sensitive natural or cultural resources are anticipated. No new drilling permits would be needed as only existing wells will be used and proposed solar installations would be covered by standard city/county solar installation permits.

Potential health and safety hazards would be limited to those associated with electrical work. Existing health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training and proper protective equipment. Wastes generated by the proposed project would be limited to construction type trash e.g. broken/unused screws, nails, etc. and would be disposed of through the standard municipal waste stream.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the proposal fits within the class of action(s) and the integral elements of 10 CFR 1021 subpart B outlined in the DOE categorical exclusion(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. This proposal is 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 :

Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs Office - State Energy Program
This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Rebecca McCord, 7/7/17.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electrically Signed By Casey Strickland  Date: 7/13/2017
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