

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Graton Economic Development Authority

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Graton Renewable Energy Efficient Network

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001660	DE-IE0000088	GFO-0000088-001	

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 Graton Economic Development Authority to install 1.5 MW of rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays serving three buildings and a parking garage on Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) Tribal lands.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include procurement, installation, operations and maintenance (O & M), and educational outreach. Procurement and educational outreach would be organized from the FIGR offices in Rohnert Park, CA. Installation of solar arrays and O & M activities would be completed at Graton Resort and Casino also in Rohnert Park. As these arrays would be roof-mounted there is no ground disturbance anticipated in association with the proposed activities. No change in the use, mission or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort. The Tribe has all applicable permits in place, and would not need additional permits for the proposed activities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) identifies 13 endangered or threatened species as well as 20 migratory birds that have been known to exist near the project site. However, due to the lack of suitable habitat for these species, nature of the project (solar photovoltaic) and the previously disturbed nature of the site, DOE has determined that there would be no effect to listed species or migratory birds as a result of the proposed project. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

The proposed PV installation presents a risk of electrocution when connecting the solar PV array system to the grid. Utility staff would be present and appropriate personal protective equipment would be worn by all personnel involved. Non-hazardous wastes would consist of the packaging of solar paneling and similar materials. All recyclables would be recycled appropriately and non-recyclables would be disposed of at the landfill.

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 :

Office of Indian Energy
This determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Rebecca McCord, 07/18/2017

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Casey Strickland Date: 7/20/2017
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