

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:Ho Chunk, Inc

STATE: NE

PROJECT TITLE : Live/Work Mixed Use Solar Installation

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| DE-FOA-0001660 | DE-IE0000090 | GFO-0000090-001 | |

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.)
- 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.
- B5.17 Solar thermal systems** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available smallscale solar thermal systems (including, but not limited to, solar hot water systems) located on or contiguous to a building, and 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 Ho Chunk Inc. to implement energy efficiency measures and expand their solar power infrastructure on the Winnebago Reservation.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include procurement, installation, interconnection, and operations and maintenance (O & M) of 29kW of solar arrays at the Live Work building in Ho Chunk Village located in Winnebago Nebraska. This installation would be comprised of 100 roof-mounted solar panels and would be supplemented with the installation of a small solar thermal heating unit on the south face of the building. All equipment would be installed on existing structures and no change in the use, mission or operation of those facilities is anticipated as a result of this effort. The only permit required for this work is an electrical permit required to perform final interconnections per state standards.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) identifies 5 endangered or threatened species as well as 23 migratory birds that have been known to exist near the project site. However, due to the lack of suitable habitat for these species at the project site and the small footprint of the proposed activities, the DOE has determined that there would be no effect to listed species or migratory birds as a result of the proposed project. Additionally, this location is not listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places nor does it reside within the viewshed of historic districts. Therefore, DOE has determined that there would be no impacts to resources of cultural or historical concern as a result of 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 for all interconnections 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 as well as small amounts of electrical waste such as excess wiring. 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, 07/19/2017

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:

Field Office Manager

Date: