

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: State Office of Energy Policy

STATE: PR

PROJECT TITLE Pilot Project - PV Solar WAP 2018
:

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
WAP-ALRD-2016	GFO-WAP-2016	GFO-WAP-2016	

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Puerto Rico State Office of Energy Policy to install photovoltaic (PV) solar systems with battery storage on up to 13 homes to aid in the recovery from Hurricanes Maria and Irma. The PV systems would be installed on homes that still have no electrical power after damages from the hurricanes. The final number of installed PV systems would be dependent on costs and funding.

The proposed project activities include the design and installation of PV systems (up to 2.4 kW each). Each system would include modules, rechargeable battery banks with a minimum usable capacity of 12.5 kWh, charge controller, stand-alone inverter, rack for battery storage, PV racking system, and all associated controls and wiring. No structural modifications or repairs to the homes or roofs would be required for the installation, beyond the necessary electrical connections and required racking system needed to attach the PV system to the structure. All PV panels would be roof mounted. Battery storage systems would be included and attached to the homes, therefore the PV systems would not require any connection to the electrical grid. No ground disturbance would be required for the installations and no trees would be removed. The proposed list of homes for the PV installation was provided to DOE for review. This NEPA determination only applies to PV installation on those homes already reviewed by DOE.

The State Historic Preservation Officer determined that no historic properties would be effected.

The proposed homes are not within a designated floodplain or wetlands.

All required permits would be obtained. If any hazardous materials are identified during the installation of the PV systems, the hazardous materials would be managed or disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state and local requirements.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the proposal fits within the class of action(s) and the integral elements of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021 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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

Any ground disturbing activities, removal of trees, or the addition of any new structures for PV installation beyond what is included in the PMC, "EQ1-Overview of Addresses FINAL," is subject to additional NEPA review and approval by DOE.

Note to Specialist :

Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs Office (WAP)
This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 06/29/18

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Kristin Kerwin Date: 7/2/2018
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