

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:**Bishop Paiute Tribe**STATE:** CA**PROJECT TITLE :** Bishop Paiute Tribe Residential Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001847	DE-IE0000099	GFO-000099-001	

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Bishop Paiute Tribe (Bishop Paiute) to design, deploy and inspect grid-tied, rooftop-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on the rooftops of 38 owner-occupied, single-family homes of low-income families living on the Bishop Paiute Reservation in Bishop, CA. Upon installation, the solar PV systems would have a total AC-rated capacity of at least 108 kW. The project would consist of a single Budget Period, with an estimated period of performance of 30 months.

Proposed project activities would include on-site assessments, system design, homeowner orientations, solar system installation, and post-installation inspection/verification. Solar system installation would be performed by GRID Alternatives and qualified sub-contractors participating in GRID Alternative's Sub-Contractor Partnership Program (SPP).

All solar PV systems would be installed on the rooftops of existing houses. No ground disturbing activities or tree/vegetation removal would be needed to implement the project. Any permits needed for the installations would be obtained prior to installation. Proposed work would occur on Tribal Trust land and no Bureau of Indian Affairs involvement is necessary, as Bishop Paiute is not requesting a surface lease, access road right of way or power line right of way. There are no historic properties or districts listed on the National Register in or near the proposed project area. Due to the project area's location and nature of the installations, DOE has determined that neither protected biological nor cultural/historic resources would be affected by project activities. There were no other resources of concern found during review of the proposed project activities.

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.

Note to Specialist :

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.
NEPA review completed by Jonathan Hartman, 09/06/2018

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: **Casey Strickland**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/27/2018

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: _____