

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** San Pasqual Band of Indians**STATE:** CA

PROJECT TITLE: SPBMI Microgrid

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001847	DE-IE0000108	GFO-0000108-001	

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), 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.)

B1.15 Support buildings Siting, construction or modification, and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated and modular buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include, but are not limited to, those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (such as security posts); fire protection; small-scale fabrication (such as machine shop activities), assembly, and testing of non-nuclear equipment or components; and similar support purposes, but exclude facilities for nuclear weapons activities and waste storage activities, such as activities covered in B1.10, B1.29, B1.35, B2.6, B6.2, B6.4, B6.5, B6.6, and B6.10 of this appendix.

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a

state or region.

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 San Pasqual Band of Indians (San Pasqual) to design and install an integrated renewable electricity generation, storage, and control system to supply electricity to five essential tribal facilities that serve the San Pasqual reservation and neighboring communities in San Diego County. The system would include rooftop-mounted photovoltaic (PV) arrays, carport-mounted PV arrays, (184 kW (DC)), battery energy storage systems (150 kW/300 kWh), and propane-fueled standby gensets (2 x 22 kW), as well as microgrid and load-control systems.

The system would require reconfiguration of electricity distribution infrastructure, including upgrading existing single-phase lines to 3-phase service, installing net-generation and master/sub-meters, and safety and protection systems for a single point of interconnection with the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) secondary distribution system.

The five facilities that would receive upgrades and new installations are all located in close proximity to one another and are situated on previously disturbed land. The five facilities include the Tribal Administration Building, Housing and Security Building, Fire Department, Education Department, and Preschool. Of these buildings, two would host new rooftop-mounted PV arrays; the Tribal Administration Building and the Housing and Security Building. Each building's rooftop was inspected previously and found to have sufficient load-bearing capacity and unused space for the specified rooftop PV racks.

One concrete pad (approx. 8' wide x 15' long x 6" deep) would be installed next to the Fire Department to mount the battery and energy storage system (BESS) and standby gensets. An existing carport would be cleared from this area to accommodate these two systems. This area has already been disturbed and is currently configured for use by the Fire Department. Solar carport structures would also be installed in the Tribal Administration parking lot. Trenches would be excavated to accommodate 3-phase microgrid bus and system-intertie cables as needed. All trenching/excavation would take place on previously-disturbed land, owned and operated by San Pasqual.

San Pasqual would ensure that all applicable Federal, state and local installation/building codes and regulations are adhered to when installing the above systems. Racking and carport-mounting systems would meet all California permitting codes for support structures, including stability and adequacy to transfer all wind, seismic, and dead and live loads to the building foundation. BESS systems would meet system requirements and standard commercial terms for technology readiness and warranty. Inverters, switches, and other balance-of-plant systems would meet all applicable requirements, including Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) standards and SDG&E protocols. Gensets would meet California standards for emissions and noise. Additionally, gensets are expected to be fitted with premium noise-attenuation systems, and to specify industry-standard maintenance exercise periods to limit emissions, fuel consumption, and costs.

Standardized engineering reviews and inspections would be undertaken to ensure that all systems meet requirements for capacity and electrical fault-current protection, and that they comply with the California Electrical Code and all applicable permitting standards as provided in the California Solar Permitting Guidebook.

Risks associated with the installation of the project systems and equipment consist primarily of hazards relating to the handling of heavy equipment, fall hazards, and electrical shock hazards. San Pasqual would mitigate these risks through adherence to established health and safety policies and procedures. Protocols would include the use of personal protective equipment (e.g. hard hats, gloves, protective eye wear, and safety vests), staff training, including weekly safety meetings, monitoring and oversight. Any and all contractors hired by San Pasqual would also be required to meet all tribal safety standards.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database shows five threatened or endangered species occurring within or near the project area (three bird species, a species of toad, and a species of kangaroo rat). Additionally, twelve migratory bird species could be present in the project area, or have been present in the past. The Bald Eagle is among the listed species. Because of the nature of the project (i.e.

solar PV and energy storage installations on previously-disturbed land, currently used for human activities), it is unlikely that any of the species would be present in the project area. Accordingly, DOE has determined that installation of the project systems/equipment would cause no effects to any of the listed species.

DOE also conducted a review of potential issues relating to other resources of concern and found that no effects would be expected to result from the project.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Program
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.
NEPA review completed by Jonathan Hartman, 11/19/2018

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/19/2018

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
 Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____