

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Colusa Indian Community Council

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE: Housing Energy Connection Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002032	DE-IE0000116	GFO-0000116-002	

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.)

B2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation Installation of, or improvements to, building and equipment instrumentation (including, but not limited to, remote control panels, remote monitoring capability, alarm and surveillance systems, control systems to provide automatic shutdown, fire detection and protection systems, water consumption monitors and flow control systems, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Colusa Indian Community Council

(Tribe) for the design, procurement, and installation of an expansion of their existing medium-voltage distribution to more than 30 households, a daycare, a mechanical shop, irrigation pumps, and a sewer lift station, which currently receive electric service from the local electric utility. As part of the project, automatic meter reading (AMR) and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) would be installed to allow the Tribe to set up its own electric metering and billing like a utility. Engineering and design activities in Task 1 of the approved Statement of Project Objectives were previously reviewed by GFO-0000116-001 (A9) on 08/21/19. This NEPA review is for all remaining tasks of the project.

Remaining project work includes installation of equipment outdoors and some ground disturbing activities. The project is connecting existing infrastructure to the Tribe's existing co-generation plant. Tasks include the expansion of a 12.47kV underground distribution system; installation of low-voltage service to households as well as commercial, industrial, and agricultural facilities (including billing meters); and installation of AMR/AMI. Expansion of the underground distribution system would require trenching for electrical conduit within existing disturbed areas, along existing roadways, and through actively managed agricultural lands. The project also includes the installation of several transformers, pieces of outdoor switchgear, and sectionalizing cabinets, some of which would require small areas of surface disturbance for pad construction. All construction would occur in areas with some level of existing disturbance but as part of best management practices, the Tribe's cultural monitors would be onsite during all surface disturbing activities to ensure protection of cultural resources. If during project activities the Tribe or their staff encounters any cultural material (i.e. historic or prehistoric), all activities would cease in the vicinity of the discovery immediately. The Tribe would inform the DOE Project Officer of the discovery and an evaluation of the discovery would be completed prior to continuing work.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database indicates that there are 11 endangered or threatened species and 11 migratory bird species possibly occurring in or near the project area. Additionally, the project is near designated critical habitat for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. This project is occurring within existing disturbed areas along roadways and actively managed agricultural lands that would not be expected to provide habitat for any of the listed special status species. The project would not modify or occur within the designated critical habitat for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Due to the location, nature, scale, and short timeframe of the construction associated with the project; DOE has determined that there would be no effect to listed special status species.

The project is near designated wetlands but none of the project activities would occur within wetlands. 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.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

If during project activities the Recipient or their staff encounters any cultural material (i.e. historic or prehistoric), all activities must cease in the vicinity of the discovery immediately. The Recipient must inform the DOE Project Officer of the discovery and an evaluation of the discovery must be completed prior to continuing work.

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

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 Date: 12/11/2019
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager