

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Philadelphia Energy Authority**STATE:** PA**PROJECT  
TITLE:** Bright Solar Futures

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001840	DE-EE0008572	GFO-0008572-003	GO8572

**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.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

**B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment** Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA) to develop and pilot a solar energy training program (Bright Solar Futures). The program would focus on training students enrolled in School District of Philadelphia's (SDP) Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program and the YouthBuild Philly (YBP) Program for entry level jobs in the solar industry. A curriculum would be developed and training would be provided to students that would include classroom education, hands-on training, and paid work experience.

The project would be divided into three Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP. Conditional NEPA Determinations were made on 2/27/2019 (GFO-0008572-001; CXs A9, A11) and 12/19/2019 (GFO-0008572-002; CXs A9, A11). Together, these determinations reviewed all BP1 tasks and subtasks. BP2 and BP3 activities were restricted, as the activities within these BPs were dependent on the selection of a training site for renovation and equipment installations. The location for the training site has now been established. Accordingly, this NEPA Review will be applicable to all BP2/BP3 activities.

BP2 and BP3 would both focus on the provisioning of classroom training to SDP and YBP students. At least 60 students would receive classroom training over the course of these two BPs. PEA would also engage with solar industry stakeholders in order to help place students in internship programs.

A classroom within Frankford High School, in Philadelphia, PA, would be retrofitted and repurposed into a solar photovoltaic (PV) training laboratory, which would be used to host the Bright Solar Futures training program. This retrofit would not be performed using DOE funding, but rather, would be funded by PEA separately. The retrofit

would include some minor electrical and plumbing work, the installation of a window, the installation of a mini-split heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system, ceiling tile replacement, painting, and the installation of training equipment. A condensing unit for the mini-split HVAC system would be installed onto the exterior wall of the school. No other equipment would be installed outdoors. Modifications would not include any ground disturbing activities. An electrical permit would be required from the City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspection. PEA would ensure that this permit is obtained prior to commencing any installation activities. Should any other permits/authorizations be needed, PEA would obtain these prior to commencing project activities.

Building modifications would require asbestos mediation. PEA would coordinate with SDP to complete the asbestos abatement. Abatement would be performed by licensed professionals and would be completed in compliance with all applicable Federal, state, and local requirements.

Frankford High School is two blocks from the Henry R. Edmunds School Building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Frankford High School, where the physical work would take place, is not visible at ground level from this historic property. The work at Frankford High School would have no potential to affect historic properties.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.

NEPA review completed by Jonathan Hartman, 03/04/2019

## 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:

 Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/5/2020

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_