

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:** Oglala Sioux (Lakota) Housing

**STATE:** SD

**PROJECT TITLE:** Oglala Omaste 2020

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-IE-0002168	DE-IE0000129	GFO-0000129-001	

**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.)
- 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 Oglala Sioux (Lakota) Housing (OSLH) for the installation of grid-tied, rooftop-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on the rooftops of one tribal facility and five tribal member residences on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Upon installation, the solar PV systems would have a total rated capacity of approximately 54.5 kW. The project would occur over a two year period.

Proposed project activities would include development, system design, EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Contracting), solar system installation, training, commissioning, and post-installation remote monitoring. Solar system installation would be performed by GRID Alternatives which would also provide hands-on training for up to 15 Tribal Members as OSLH maintenance personnel, Oglala Lakota students and participants of Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation's (TVCDC) workforce development program.

All solar PV systems would be installed on the rooftops of an existing facility and residences. No ground disturbing activities or tree/vegetation removal would be needed to implement the project. Any permits needed for the project work would be obtained prior to installation. There are no historic properties or districts listed on the National Register in or near the proposed installation sites. The facility and homes involved in the project were all built since 2012. The PV installation occurring at the OSLH building is located less than 0.5 miles northwest of the runway at the Pine Ridge Airport (IEN). To ensure that the proposed project would not result in an impact on aviation safety as a result of the potential for glare and ocular impacts, a glare and ocular impact analysis was completed in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines and policy. Glare and ocular impacts were assessed for incoming aircraft to Runway 30 (IEN does not have an Air Traffic Control Tower). The conclusion of the analysis was that the PV installation would cause no glare with potential for after image for incoming aircraft from threshold to 2 miles. This level of glare meets the FAA standard for no objection to construction of the project. Based on this analysis, DOE does not anticipate any adverse impacts to incoming aircraft as a result of project activities.

Based on the project locations and the proposed project activities, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs  
This NEPA Determination does not require 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:  Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland Date: 6/15/2020  
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