

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Department of Economic Development & Commerce-Energy Policy Program-

STATE: PR

PROJECT TITLE: Bayamon County "Solar Security" Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0008300	GFO-0008300-001	

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 Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development & Commerce-Energy Policy Program to purchase and install a roof mounted photovoltaic (PV) system up to 160 kW with a 250 kW battery energy storage system at the Bayamon County Emergency Management Headquarters in the municipality of Bayamon, PR. The system would include the installation of solar modules, inverters, mounting brackets, racking, conduit, and a battery energy storage system (battery system). Additionally, a "Safe Zone" would be added to the back of the building, with seating and charging stations for the public during emergency situations.

The roof would not require any structural modifications and no building modifications would be required, aside from electrical connections. The PV system would be grid connected. The battery system would be located near the existing transformer and would require an approximate 10' X 8' concrete pad for the cabinet which would enclose the batteries. Additionally, a 6" deep trench to connect the transformer and the battery cabinet to the building with the PV system would be required. The "Safe Zone" would necessitate electrical connections to the building and a 10'x10' concrete slab to accommodate the charging stations and benches.

The recipient worked directly with their State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to ensure protection of cultural resources during the project activities. The SHPO reviewed the proposed project activities and the site location, and determined, "No Historic Properties Effected" on April 9, 2021. DOE is in agreement with this determination from the Puerto Rico SHPO.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) lists the endangered Puerto Rico Boa and the Palo De Rosa plant as possibly occurring within the project area. Considering all project activities would occur on already disturbed lands, due to regular mowing of the grass or personnel walking over placed gravel to access the building, DOE has determined that this project would have no effect on either federally listed endangered species.

The proposed site is not in the 100-year floodplain or a designated wetland.

The Bayamon Emergency Management office would obtain all building and electrical permits and the interconnection agreement with the electric company.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs – State Energy Program
This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 04/20/2021

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
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/20/2021

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: _____