

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



RECIPIENT: US General Services Administration

STATE: GA

PROJECT TITLE : Aquifer to Cooling Tower Make Up at MLK, RBR and Nunn GSA buildings

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002472	DE-EE0009844	GFO-0009844-001	

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.)
- B1.16 Asbestos removal** Removal of asbestos-containing materials from buildings in accordance with applicable requirements (such as 40 CFR part 61, "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants"; 40 CFR part 763, "Asbestos"; 29 CFR part 1910, subpart I, "Personal Protective Equipment"; and 29 CFR part 1926, "Safety and Health Regulations for Construction"; and appropriate state and local requirements, including certification of removal contractors and technicians).
- 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:

B1.5 Existing steam plants and cooling water systems.

Minor improvements to existing steam plants and cooling water systems (including, but not limited to, modifications of existing cooling towers and ponds), provided that the improvements would not: (1) Create new sources of water or involve new receiving waters; (2) have the potential to significantly alter water withdrawal rates; (3) exceed the permitted temperature of discharged water; or (4) increase introductions of, or involve new introductions of, hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to design, construct, commission, and verify a water supply system to support water and energy conservation measures for federal facilities in Atlanta, GA. The system would supply facility cooling towers with aquifer water from existing sump pits. Federal facilities would include the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center (SNAFC), Richard B. Russell Federal Building (RBR), and the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Building (MLK).

Activities would involve the installation of components necessary to route aquifer water from the existing sump pits of SNAFC to cooling towers at SNAFC, RBR, and MLK. This would include installation of piping, pumps, electronic components, and two 5000-gallon storage tanks. Water storage tanks would be installed in the parking structure of SNAFC. The room which would house the storage tanks and supporting equipment would be modified to serve as a mechanical room, which would include the installation of components to support ventilation, climate control, lighting, fire protection, drainage, and electrical supply. Installation of piping between facilities would leverage existing underground trenches. The trench between SNAFC and MLK is currently under construction as part of a City of Atlanta project which is separate from this award. The system would include components to support chlorine treatment of water obtained from the sump pits.

All activities would occur at SNAFC, RBR, MLK, and underground trenches between these facilities. All work would be completed in compliance with GSA and federal building requirements, as well as all federal, state, and local regulations. All necessary permits would be obtained before initiating related activities. Activities may require abatement of existing hazardous materials (e.g. asbestos). All hazardous materials would be managed in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

Because GSA is a federal agency, it is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project. This would include completing an environmental review for the project, including any necessary consultations and geotechnical or other surveys prior to a decision whether to proceed. If GSA proceeds with the proposed project after their NEPA review, they would be required to obtain all necessary permits and follow appropriate environmental, health, and safety measures. GSA must provide its final NEPA determination(s) to their DOE Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Technical Project Officer (TPO) or point of contact.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

This DOE grant is a secondary funding source for this project and comprises approximately 2.42% of total project funding. Primary funding would come from GSA.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Because GSA is a federal agency, it is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). When GSA has completed its NEPA review process for the proposed project, GSA will provide its final NEPA determination(s) to their Department of Energy (DOE) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Technical Project Officer (TPO) or point of contact.

Notes:

Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP)
This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Dan Cahill, 06/21/2022.

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: Kristin Kerwin**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/22/2022

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: _____