

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



**RECIPIENT:** Virginia Department of Energy

**STATE:** VA

**PROJECT TITLE :** Virginia Distribution Center Ground Mount Solar Array

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
SEP-ALRD-2021	DE-EE0009148	GFO-0009148-003	

**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:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b> | 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.) |
| <b>B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems</b>                      | 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 is proposing to provide funding to the State of Virginia's Department of Energy for a ground mounted 345kW DC solar photovoltaic (PV) array at the Virginia Distribution Center in Sandston, VA.

Proposed activities would include installing 822 PV modules and associated mounts, five inverters, PV switchgear, and the associated wiring to connect the modules and inverters to the building's existing electrical system. Underground wiring would require approximately 100 feet of trenching to connect the PV switchgear to the building. Beyond the addition of the electrical connection, no other building modifications would be required. The proposed location of the PV array is an open space next to a parking lot that is regularly mowed. Only minimal contouring of the grass covered open space would be needed to accommodate the new PV array.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation database shows one candidate insect (Monarch Butterfly), one endangered mammal (Northern Long-eared Bat), and six migratory birds (Bald Eagle, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Lesser Yellowlegs, Prothonotary Warbler, Red Woodpecker, and Wood Thrush) with the potential to occur in the project area. Due to the lack of potential habitat for any the species at the project site, and the previously disturbed condition of the site; DOE has determined the proposed project would have no effect to candidate or endangered species, and does not anticipate adverse impacts to migratory birds in the area.

The state of Virginia has a DOE Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement. Under this agreement, the recipient consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO determined, "This project will have an impact on historic resources. Based on the information provided, the impact will not be adverse." DOE concurs with the SHPO's determination.

The proposed site is not located within designated wetlands or the 100-year floodplain.

Any changes to the project activities or locations are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for Federal funding unless and until the Contracting Officer provides written authorization on those additions or modifications.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office - State Energy Program  
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 7/21/2022

**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: **Casey Strickland**  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/22/2022

**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: \_\_\_\_\_