

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



RECIPIENT: Puvurnaq Power Company

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE : Kong Solar Energy Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002317	DE-IE0000161	GFO-0000161-001	GO161

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 the Puvurnaq Power Company (PPC) to procure, install, integrate, and operate a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panel array to supplement the existing power distribution system located in the Native village of Kongiganak, Alaska.

The ground-mounted solar array would occupy an area measuring approximately 180' x 180' (0.74 acre), with a perimeter fence measuring 250' x 250'. Panels would be installed on steel racks secured by helical piles driven into the ground. The solar power would be connected to the existing system via an above-ground conduit protected by a boardwalk. A transformer would be installed and would be connected to a nearby power pole. No trenching would occur.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies three threatened species (Wood Bison, Spectacled Eider, and Steller's Eider) which may occur in the proposed project area. DOE determined the proposed project may affect but would not likely adversely affect Spectacled Eiders and Steller's Eiders, when ground disturbing construction activities are performed outside the migratory bird nesting season (May 5 through July 25). Consultation was not required for Wood Bison as individuals within the vicinity are part of a nonessential experimental population and the project is not occurring within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. USFWS concurred with DOE's determination of may affect not but not likely to adversely affect Spectacled Eiders and Steller's Eiders when construction activities are implemented outside of migratory bird season.

Minimal air emissions would occur during construction from the use of small-scale construction equipment and vehicles. Significant air impacts are not anticipated as construction equipment and vehicle use would be temporary and intermittent. Project activities would involve hazards associated with routine construction activities and working with electricity. Any risks working with hazards would be mitigated through established corporate safety and construction protocols. The PPC would observe all applicable health, safety, and environmental regulations. 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.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

The Recipient must not perform ground disturbing construction activities during the migratory bird nesting season (May 5 through July 25).

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (OIE)
NEPA review completed by Amy Lukens 10/27/2022

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: 11/1/2022

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: _____