

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



RECIPIENT: Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

STATE: WI

PROJECT TITLE : WI EIGP - Dunn County

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
SEP-ALRD-2021	DE-EE0008669	GFO-0008669-028	

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:

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.
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy is proposing to provide funding to the Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation to install approximately 51.36 kW of ground mounted solar PV panels, four 10 kW inverters, with a protective fence at the Dunn County Historical Society History Museum in Menomonie, Wisconsin. The installation will be part of the Society's planned "Solar Victory Garden" which will be enhanced with educational signage and gardens surrounding the proposed solar array.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies one candidate species (Monarch Butterfly), one threatened species (Northern Long-eared Bat) and two endangered species (Gray Wolf, Karner Blue Butterfly) that may occur in the project area. Several trees may be removed to accommodate the new Solar Victory Garden. For this reason, the project was evaluated and determined consistent with activities assessed in the USFWS' January 5, 2016 Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) applying to activities that may affect Northern Long-eared Bat. The proposed projects may affect the northern long-eared bat; however, any take that may occur as a result of the proposed project is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Karner Blue Butterflies would not be found at the project site as the species requires wild Lupin for most life cycles and the proposed site is mowed and manicured. The Gray wolf would not be impacted as this project is already within a developed area not suitable for wolf habitat. DOE has determined the proposed project would have no effect to Gray Wolves or Karner Blue Butterflies.

Installation of the proposed project may involve the use of heavy equipment and working with electricity. Potential hazards would be mitigated through adherence to established institutional health and safety policies and procedures. The Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation would adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

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 Amy Lukens, 12/15/2022

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 Date: 12/15/2022
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