



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Program or Field Office: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM)

Project Title: Installation of Solar Panel Electric Vehicle Charging Supply Equipment at the Fernald Preserve, Ohio, Visitors Center

Location: Fernald Preserve, Ohio Site, Hamilton, OH

Proposed Action or Project Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is proposing to: Install an electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) at the Fernald Preserve Visitor Center (VC). The purpose of the project is to install one Level 3 Beam EV ARC 2020 100% dual-port with solar and battery array, transportable, grid-independent EVCS. The need for the project is to provide charging stations for the members of the public that visit the Fernald Preserve.

The proposed action is to install one EVCS as described above in the south side of the VC in the Architecture Barriers Act parking lot. The EVCS would be placed in existing parking lot spaces and installation would not require any construction activities (i.e., site preparation, erosion control, trenching, electrical wiring, concrete).

The proposal includes the following:

- Delivery by vendor
- Setup by vendor
- Startup by vendor
- Coordination with cellular provider
- Unit price of monthly cellular charges
- Unit price of annual EVCS service and maintenance
- Installation of signage on existing posts

The half-day delivery and set-up is scheduled during the nesting and fledging seasons for migratory birds in the area, including the bald eagle nesting season (mid-February–March), but the proposed work would not adversely affect any listed species or designated critical habitat as no habitat is near the project area. If the work were to be rescheduled for a different time, the project would still not disturb nesting eagles since there is no bald eagle nesting habitat nearby. All work would occur on property owned by LM.

The proposed action would involve setting the solar panel unit on the existing parking lot pavement. As of October 26, 2022, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has approved EVCSs to be exempt from National Historic Preservation Action (NHPA) Section 106 evaluation. The proposed action falls under that exemption; therefore, Section 106 consultation is not required. Additionally, NHPA Section 106 consultation was not conducted with the Ohio State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) because this project would take place in a previously disturbed area and the Fernald Preserve has a programmatic agreement in place with the Ohio SHPO dated July 11, 2012.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B5.23 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- B5.16 Solar Photovoltaic Systems

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 1021 (10 CFR 1021).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal 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,



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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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized by the LM Director per DOE Policy 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified classes of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA Compliance Officer Signature and
Determination Date**

JOYCE CHAVEZ Digitally signed by JOYCE CHAVEZ
Date: 2023.02.09 14:26:45 -07'00'
