

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



RECIPIENT: Town of Bedford NH - Department of Public Works

STATE: NH

PROJECT TITLE : Utility Upgrades for the Bedford Landfill Solar Project

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| CDP | DE-EE0010172 | GFO-0010172-001 | |

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.)

B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

Upgrading or rebuilding approximately 20 miles in length or less of existing electric powerlines, which may involve minor relocations of small segments of the powerlines.

Rationale for determination:

B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities within a previously disturbed or developed facility area. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, load shaping projects (such as the installation and use of flywheels and battery arrays), changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to the Town of Bedford, New Hampshire, to support the design, engineering, permitting, procurement, and construction of 4,600 linear feet (ft) of a three-phase power line extension, intended to facilitate the future independent construction of an approximately 1 megawatt (MW) net metered solar array at a decommissioned landfill. The electrical extension would also allow the town to convert from a manual trash compaction using a diesel backhoe to an automated electrical compaction facility.

The Recipient would install new electrical equipment to expand feeder capacity, enabling the later addition of a solar array and the electrification of a trash compaction facility. However, neither of the potential later developments are included in the scope of the proposed project; the primary task to be performed would be the completion of upgrades to the electrical line along Chubbuck Road that runs to Bedford's municipal solid waste facility. Additionally, new utility poles would be installed to help accommodate the enhanced electrical infrastructure needed for solar development. Prior to this work, the project team would undertake equipment procurement and the finalizing of contracts and work orders with relevant local utility companies and vendors. No new or additional permitting would be required as all construction would occur on existing rights-of-way or on Town of Bedford property. Other preliminary project activities would include any necessary tree clearing along the roadway to enable the electrical upgrades. The amount of tree clearing that would be performed is expected to be minor as project work would occur on an existing utility line right-of-way.

Approximately 4,600 ft of power lines would be reconducted from one-phase to three-phase power. Twenty-seven utility poles would be upgraded, and six new poles would be installed along with associated conduit and electrical equipment (fuses, switches, reclosers, transformers, and others as identified by the local utility). Pole upgrades themselves to support the new three-phase service would entail replacement of the conductors, new protection equipment, new transformers, and new high-voltage metering devices. To allow the three-phase power to be utilized for future electrification and automation of trash compaction at the Bedford waste disposal site, additional on-site conduit would be laid to connect the facility to the new power line. This conduit would run approximately 430 ft to provide 400 amp three-phase service to the municipal solid waste facility, support the existing single-phase service,

and leave space for potential future upgrades.

The project team would monitor all aspects of the civil construction, such as road closures, tree clearing, and continued traffic control as they would for any infrastructure projects in the Town of Bedford. All project work would be supervised by an on-site construction inspector to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations including traffic control. The project team would coordinate with other local government authorities to ensure that construction proceeds in a timely fashion with minimal disruption to neighboring residents or commuters.

Based on the types of activities proposed, which would be confined to previously disturbed ground and consistent with the existing land use, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project. A migratory bird nesting survey shall be completed if project activities involving ground disturbance occur between March 15 and September 15. If during project work cultural or archaeological artifacts are encountered, the recipient shall stop the site installation immediately and inform the DOE Project Officer of the finding. A Class III: Intensive Cultural Resources Inventory shall be required prior to re-commencing project work.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

A migratory bird nesting survey shall be completed if project activities involving ground disturbance occur between March 15 and September 15.

If during project work cultural or archaeological artifacts are encountered, the recipient shall stop the site installation immediately and inform the DOE Project Officer of the finding. A Class III: Intensive Cultural Resources Inventory shall be required prior to re-commencing project work.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)

This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Whitney Donoghue on 03/09/2023.

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: Andrew Montano

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/17/2023

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: _____