

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



RECIPIENT: Detroit Wayne County Port Authority

STATE: MI

PROJECT TITLE: DWCPA SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010134	GFO-0010134-001	GO10134

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 administer Congressionally Directed Spending to the Detroit Wayne County Port Authority (DWCPA) to procure and install a solar photovoltaic (PV) array on the roof of DWCPA headquarters, located at 130 Atwater St, Detroit, MI 48226.

The proposed project is situated within a complex of office and commercial event space. The solar PV system would only serve DWCPA's facility. DWCPA is the sole owner of the property and the only stakeholder for the proposed project. No change to the use, mission, or operation of the facility or surrounding facilities would result from this effort.

The array would consist of approximately 187 PV panels, covering about 80% of the rooftop. The panels would not require structural reinforcement and would be held in place by weighted mounts that do not penetrate the roof membrane. A 3rd party solar installer would be responsible for identifying and providing integration equipment to allow the electricity generated to feed the facility's electrical panel. Necessary interconnections would not entail physical modifications to the building.

DWCPA would engage a qualified engineering firm to assist in the development of further technical specifications and bid documents in order to procure a turnkey proposal to design and install a commercially available solar PV panel system that meets all code requirements and achieves targeted levels of energy production and cost-savings over the life cycle of the equipment. DWCPA, with advice and guidance provided by the engineering firm, would then select a contractor to perform the work of installing the array and related equipment.

Project activities would be conducted in accordance with applicable local requirements. DWCPA proposes to add any surplus power generated by the array to the local grid operated by DTE Energy, the facility's electrical service provider. DTE Energy would require DWCPA to complete an application to determine the maximum sizing of the panel grid and approve the project to feed electricity to their network. A building permit from the City of Detroit would be obtained for the proposed modifications to the facility's electrical system.

The DWCPA property is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places nor is it located within a listed historic district. DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of the proposed activities to determine potential issues related to other resources of concern and found no effects that would be expected to result from the proposed project activities or require DOE to consult with other agencies.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
Reviewed completed by Whitney Donoghue on 04/13/2023.

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 Date: 4/18/2023
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