

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



RECIPIENT: Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians

STATE: MI

PROJECT TITLE : Jijak Gises Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002774	DE-IE0000180	GFO-0000180-001	GO180

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 Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, d.b.a. the Gun Lake Tribe (Tribe) to install a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panel array on approximately one (1) acre of land at the Tribe's Jijak property in Hopkins, MI.

Award activities would include outreach, training, and field work. All administration activities would be carried out at the Gun Lake Tribe Government Campus (Shelbyville, MI), including project management, vendor selection, permit application, and reporting. Solar PV panel installation at the Tribe's Jijak property would include site preparation, installation and maintenance of the solar PV panels, connection of the solar array to the grid, and troubleshooting and verification of solar array production.

The ground-mounted solar array would be placed on an existing managed lawn area that has already been cleared and is actively managed. Ground disturbance would include trenching for the electrical line from the site of the array to the existing meter. Approximately 850 linear feet of trenched conduit would be installed to connect to an existing meter on site. Trenching would run parallel to the existing asphalt road. The total amount of ground disturbance would total less than two acres.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies ten threatened or endangered species that may occur in the proposed project area, including the Indiana Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Piping Plover, Red Knot, Whooping Crane, Eastern Massasauga, Karner Blue Butterfly, Monarch Butterfly, and Pitcher's Thistle. No wetlands or USFWS designated critical habitats are present in the area. Because award activities would take place on a previously cleared and managed area, and no tree cutting would be required, DOE has determined the proposed project would have no effect to threatened or endangered species in the area.

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 during construction. Project activities would involve hazards associated with routine construction activities, working with electricity, and concrete. Any risks working with hazards would be mitigated through established Tribal safety and construction protocols. The Tribe 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 award.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (IE)
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 8/30/2023.

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:  Casey Strickland Date: 9/6/2023
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