



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Blanket CX: Residential and Community-based Solar Photo-voltaic Solar(PVS) Systems with Lithium-ion Battery Storage Installations under the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) - DE-FOA-0003096 of the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF)

Program or Field Office: Grid Deployment Office (GDO)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Puerto Rico

Proposed Action Description:

Under FOA #DE-FOA-0003096, GDO will award solar companies up to \$400 million dollars to install commercially available residential PVS systems with Battery Storage for qualified beneficiaries in Puerto Rico. Qualified beneficiaries include low-income, single-family households where individuals with energy dependent disability reside, and households located in Last Mile Communities. Awardees will install residential systems in compliance local and national building and electrical codes. The awardees will obtain all applicable local and power company permits. The PVS systems may include data communications, inverters, conductors, conduits, transformers, ground-mounted arrays, and two-way meters. Project scope includes operations and maintenance. GDO will use a third-party contractor to screen eligible beneficiaries and properties through application checklists. Per 10 C.F.R. 1022.5(d)(3), the action is considered a minor modification of existing structures in a floodplain or wetland to improve environmental conditions, when applicable.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B5.16 - Solar photovoltaic systems

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 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, 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 under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) 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: **STEVEN BLAZEK** Digitally signed by STEVEN BLAZEK
Date: 2023.10.30 12:56:49 -04'00'

Date Determined: 09/13/2023