

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



**RECIPIENT:** Nottoway County Public Schools

**STATE:** VA

**PROJECT TITLE :** Energy & Infrastructure Upgrades for Nottoway County Public Schools

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> DE-FOA-0002756	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> DE-SE0000728	<b>NEPA Control Number</b> GFO-SE0000728-001	<b>CID Number</b>
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**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.)

**B2.1 Workplace enhancements**

Modifications within or contiguous to an existing structure, in a previously disturbed or developed area, to enhance workplace habitability (including, but not limited to, installation or improvements to lighting, radiation shielding, or heating/ventilating/air conditioning and its instrumentation, and noise reduction).

**B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water**

(a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Nottoway County Public Schools (Nottoway) to improve the energy efficiency of five (5) schools within their school district. This funding opportunity is part of a DOE initiative to implement energy-efficient upgrades and improvements to K-12 schools across the country.

Award activities related to energy-efficiency are broken down by location below:

Blackstone Primary School (Blackstone, VA) energy efficiency upgrades and improvements would include replacement of the existing fluorescent lighting with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting; installation of lighting controls; building envelope improvements such as spray foam insulation; and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) unit replacements for existing systems serving the cafeteria and gymnasium as well as the installation of an

associated building automation system (BAS).

Crewe Primary School (Crewe, VA) energy efficiency upgrades and improvements would include replacement of the existing fluorescent lighting with LED lighting; installation of lighting controls; building envelope improvements such as spray foam insulation; new door sweeps and seals; new window caulking; installation of new doors and frames; HVAC unit replacements for existing systems serving the gymnasium and other areas as well as the integration of the new systems with the existing BAS; and installation of a new electric boiler which would include new pumps for the condenser water system and piping changes. Additionally, Crewe Primary School previously used a geothermal wellfield to heat their water. This system has since failed, and Nottoway proposes to cut and cap the return and supply lines and abandon the well in place. No ground disturbance would occur because of the well abandonment. Access to well piping is within existing subterranean valve boxes that are easily accessible.

Nottoway Intermediate School (Crewe, VA) energy efficiency upgrades and improvements would include replacement of the existing fluorescent lighting with LED lighting; installation of lighting controls; building envelope improvements such as spray foam insulation; installation of new doors, windows, and associated frames; and BAS upgrades.

Nottoway Middle School (Crewe, VA) energy efficiency upgrades and improvements would include replacement of the existing fluorescent lighting with LED lighting, installation of lighting controls, building envelope improvements such as spray foam insulation, new door sweeps and seals, and BAS upgrades.

Nottoway High School (Crewe, VA) energy efficiency upgrades and improvements would include replacement of the existing fluorescent lighting with LED lighting; installation of lighting controls; building envelope improvements such as spray foam insulation; new door sweeps and seals; HVAC unit replacements for existing systems serving classrooms, the office, cafeteria, and other areas as well as the integration of the new systems with the existing BAS; replacement of variable air volume boxes; replacement of the existing propane boilers with high-efficiency propane boilers; and installation of a new roof.

Engineering and design activities for the award would be led by Wiley|Wilson in Lynchburg, VA. HVAC installation activities at Blackstone and Crewe Primary Schools would require the expansion of the existing twenty (20) feet by nine (9) feet concrete pads and chain link fences. Each pad, which are located immediately adjacent to each school's gymnasium in the rear of the buildings, would be expanded to a maximum of twenty-six (26) feet by eleven (11) feet.

Award activities would involve typical hazards associated with construction and both mechanical and electrical work, including operation of potentially hazardous equipment and site-specific environmental hazards. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed to mitigate hazards to acceptable levels. Mitigated hazards would pose negligible risks to the public and environment. All activities would comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Under DOE's executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement (PA) with Virginia, Nottoway completed consultation with The Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Nottoway received a letter of concurrence from the Director of the Review and Compliance Division (11/14/2023) stating a finding of 'No Historic Properties Affected.' Per Section XIV(c) of the executed PA, DOE requires that Nottoway submit an annual Historic Preservation Report summarizing all award undertakings and reviews occurring from September 1st through August 31st. These reports are due to DOE annually for the life of the award and are to be received no later than September 15th each year.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders aside from consultations that have already been mentioned.

## **NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Per Section XIV(c) of the executed PA, DOE requires that Nottoway submit an annual Historic Preservation Report summarizing all award undertakings and reviews occurring from September 1st through August 31st. These reports are due to DOE annually for the life of the award and are to be received no later than September 15th each year.

Notes:

**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:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 12/5/2023  
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