

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



**RECIPIENT:** Town of Stratford

**STATE:** NH

**PROJECT TITLE :** Solar Energy Extension Project

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
CDS	DE-EE0010787	GFO-0010787-001	

**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.)

**B1.7 Electronic equipment**

Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.

**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 Town of Stratford, New Hampshire to construct a roof-top solar array and electric vehicle (EV) station at a public pavilion, the town library, and the town hall.

Proposed project activities would include the installation and interconnection of:

1. A 6-kW rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) array and two (2) electric vehicle charging stations at the Town Pavilion located at 1956 US Route 3. The 20-panel PV array would provide electricity to the Stratford Public Library located adjacent to the pavilion at 74 Main St. The solar panels would be installed on the southwest facing roof and would be connected to the grid, and the EV charging stations would be mounted to the public pavilion. Roof racking would be installed, and wiring would be tied into the existing electrical panel.
2. Air source heat pumps would be installed at the town library and town hall to replace existing units. Three (3) ductless air-source heat pumps (two 18,000 BTU units and one 24,000 BTO unit) at the Stratford Public Library to reduce the use of fossil-fuel based heating fuels.

There would be no ground disturbing activities or trenching. All local building and electrical codes would be followed, as well as Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations.

The library has been identified as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed around 1858, the library originally was used as a train station, but was renovated in 2005. Over the years, the structure has been modified. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, DOE submitted a Request for Review to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, State Historic Preservation Officer (NH SHPO) and received concurrence with the determination that proposed project activities would have no adverse effect to historic properties. DOE also conducted a review of potential issues related to other resources of concern and found no effects that would be expected to result from the proposed project activities.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)  
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 11/20/2023.

**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: 12/6/2023

**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: