

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



**RECIPIENT:** Clean Energy Group, Inc.

**STATE:** VT

**PROJECT TITLE :** Resilient Power for Community Health

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
FY23 CDS	DE-EE0010799	GFO-0010799-001	

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.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to Clean Energy Group, Inc. (CEG) to install solar photovoltaic panels plus battery storage systems ("solar+storage") at multiple federally qualified community health centers (FQHCs) serving low-income communities in Vermont. CEG is a national nonprofit that provides technical assistance and support to community organizations seeking to explore and develop solar+storage for energy resilience and cost savings.

The FQHCs where systems would be installed have not been fully determined. 19 possible locations have been provided to DOE for review, among which two to four would be selected by CEG through outreach and engagement activities (Tasks 1-2) in the first quarter of the anticipated 18-month project. Given the potential scope of work associated with the installations and lack of site-specific final design, there is insufficient information available to review the proposed solar+storage development and installation activities (Task 3). Further NEPA review will be required for Task 3 once all installation sites have been identified. Information sharing and dissemination activities (Task 4) to be conducted throughout the course of the proposed project are included in this NEPA determination.

Tasks 1-2 and Task 4 would be limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, and analytical activities. CEG would conduct project administration and management, desktop research, outreach and engagement, and information sharing and dissemination at their main office in Montpelier, VT. These tasks would not involve any field work or site evaluation beyond paper studies, and no equipment would be procured. Based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed Tasks 1-2 and Task 4 of the project.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Task 1: "Community Health Center Outreach and Education"  
Task 2: "Site Selection and Preliminary Solar+Storage Design"  
Task 4: "Information Sharing and Dissemination"

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

### Task 3: "Solar+Storage Development and Installation"

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)  
Review completed by Whitney Donoghue on 12/6/2023.

#### 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.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

#### SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 12/12/2023  
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