

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



RECIPIENT: Voorhees University

STATE: SC

PROJECT TITLE : Haven Solar-Powered Shelter at Voorhees University

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010099	GFO-0010099-001	

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:

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 Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Voorhees University (VU) for the design, development, and installation of a 1.6 kW solar-powered shelter with an attached battery and bike rack on campus. The shelter would include a solar canopy, seating, wi-fi connection, and charging ports.

Award activities would include the installation of a 1.6 kW solar-powered shelter with an attached battery and bike rack . The proposed location for the shelter is on the existing patio for Leonard E. Dawson Center. No modifications to the patio would be needed to accommodate the solar canopy. The bike rack would be installed on the grass next to the concrete pad.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) identifies several federally listed threatened or endangered species, including the Tricolored Bat, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Monarch Butterfly, and Canby's Dropwort, which are believed to occur in the project areas, as well as six migratory bird species of conservation concern. However, habitat would not be impacted with the addition of the solar canopy to the existing patio. Because of the nature and location of the bike rack (i.e. installation of equipment on regularly disturbed ground from lawn mowing) it is unlikely that any of the species of concern would be present in the project area. Additionally, the proposed project site is outside of the critical habitat of all listed species. Accordingly, DOE has determined there would be no effect on federally listed threatened or endangered species. Further, DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts to migratory bird species.

Potential hazards created by the proposed award activities would be consistent with those for construction and concrete foundation work. Existing university health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments.

The project site is outside of the 100-year floodplain.

The recipient is working directly with their State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), as the project area is located within a historic district , to ensure protection of cultural resources during the course of project activities, per their historic preservation programmatic agreement with DOE and the South Carolina SHPO.

Any changes to the project activities or location are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for federal funding unless and until the Contracting Officer provides written authorization on those additions or modifications.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 2/21/2023.

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:  Matthew Bleivins Date: 3/27/2024
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