

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



**RECIPIENT:** City of Quincy

**STATE:** IL

**PROJECT TITLE :** Quincy Solar Farm Project

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> CDS FY23	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> DE-EE0010798	<b>NEPA Control Number</b> GFO-0010798-001	<b>CID Number</b>
--	--	---	-------------------

**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.)

**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 City of Quincy to design, develop, and construct solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at two (2) city-owned facilities located in Adams County, Illinois. The proposed systems are primarily intended to reduce the City's operating expenses by offsetting, in whole or in part, electric energy requirements at each of the sites.

The proposed project would be divided into four (4) phases: Request for Proposals, Predevelopment, Installation, and Commissioning. The systems would be procured as a design-build project, and at this time a qualified 3rd party solar contractor has not been selected. However, design would be based upon use of commercially available proven technologies for similar applications. Predevelopment would involve finalizing the design, permitting, and public engagement. Installation of the solar arrays and associated infrastructure would be followed by the testing and demonstration of the systems by the contractor and equipment manufacturers. Commissioning would also include workforce training and development of operation and maintenance plans for the systems.

Each solar facility would be comprised of ground-mounted PV arrays constructed on unoccupied open turf. The proposed locations and respective project activities, equipment, and infrastructure that would be installed are as follows:

- Quincy Water Reservoir: An approximately 2.2-acre solar farm would be constructed on top of a finished covered reservoir for the City's public water supply. These ground-mounted arrays are expected to generate an annual average of roughly 500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per day, with peak generating capacity occurring at the time of peak electric demand for an adjacent reservoir pump station. Ground at this site consists of a vegetated "roof" (very flat, clay soil covered by turfgrass) over a buried concrete water reservoir. Installed system components would include solar PV panels, panel racking and structures, electrical equipment, and buried cabling.
- Quincy Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF): An approximately 7.8-acre solar farm would be installed on unoccupied space at the City's WWTF. These ground-mounted arrays are expected to generate an annual average of roughly 2,000 kWh per day, with peak generating capacity occurring at the time of peak electric demand for the facility. The WWTF was previously built-up from sand dredged from the adjacent Mississippi River and has a flat grade. Ground at this site consists of sandy soil covered by turfgrass. Installed system components would include solar PV panels, panel racking and structures, electrical equipment, and buried cabling. An existing electrical substation is located next to the proposed project site, and connected activities would include building a net metering facility that would allow the City to sell excess electricity back to the utility.

Excavation would be required at both sites to install concrete slab equipment foundations and trenching for cabling between solar panels and other electrical equipment. The project would require a storm water permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cover ground disturbing activities greater than 1 acre at each of these sites. Ground disturbance would be limited to extensively developed areas that were previously filled with non-native materials (imported sand and soils). Excess soil, sand, rock and excavated materials would be relocated on site, covered with topsoil and seeded.

Visual impacts resulting from the proposed project activities would be limited. Solar panels and electrical equipment would be visible in the vicinity of the WWTP project site; however, the surrounding area is used for industrial purposes would not impact any Quincy historic districts. Solar panels and equipment at the reservoir would not be visible from street level due to the existing embankment of this site, which is not located within or adjacent to a historic district. DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on other resources, including those of an ecological, 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.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)  
NEPA review completed by Whitney Donoghue on 04/01/2024.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



**Andrew Montano**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/2/2024

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_