

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



RECIPIENT: City of Clearwater

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE: Clearwater Solar Panel Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010780	GFO-0010780-001	

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:

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| 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 Clearwater (Clearwater) to design, fabricate, and install grid-tied solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays at multiple locations in Clearwater, Florida. All project locations are owned and operated by Clearwater.

Project Activities at each installation site would be as follows.

1. Solid Waste Transfer Station: A 154-kilowatt (kW), 23,000-square-foot (sq. ft.) rooftop solar PV array would be installed.
2. Countryside Library: A 98 kW, 22,404 sq. ft. rooftop solar PV array would be installed.
3. Morningside Recreation Center: A 119 kW, 3,565 sq. ft. rooftop solar PV array would be installed.
4. Clearwater Gas System Complex: A 149 kW, 45,240 sq. ft. rooftop solar PV array would be installed.

Proposed activities would involve the physical modification of existing facilities through the installation of commercially available rooftop solar PV systems. Initial project activities would include the selection of a construction manager to implement the project, including design, site preparation, equipment procurement, and acquiring local and state approvals/permits. Additional activities would include installation and integration into the grid.

Work would occur on previously disturbed sites; equipment and supplies would be staged in parking lots of building sites and lifts would be used to move equipment to rooftops. Existing roads would be used to access installation sites. No change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort.

Project activities would involve typical hazards associated with construction as well as mechanical and electrical work. Proper safety and environmental policies and procedures, including the use of personal protective equipment, would be implemented on-site. All activities would comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations. All required permits, licenses, and/or authorizations, including building permits from Clearwater's Planning and Development Department, as well as an interconnection agreement between Duke Energy and Clearwater would be obtained prior to construction activities.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of the 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.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
Review completed by Brittany White on 4/22/2024

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:  _____ Date: 4/25/2024
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