

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



RECIPIENT: MOWA Choctaw Housing Authority

STATE: AL

PROJECT TITLE: MOWA Focus On Energy

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002988	DE-SE0000992	GFO-SE0000992-001	

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.

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the MOWA Choctaw Housing Authority (MCHA) to establish a planning team focused on developing and implementing a clean energy program. The program would provide energy audits, air-source heat pump installation, lighting upgrades, development of a clean energy incentive plan and a clean energy training program.

MCHA would partner with the City of Citronelle, Alabama to establish the planning team tasked with developing and implementing the new "MOWA Focus on Energy" plan and energy efficient incentive program. Implementation of the plan would involve recruitment of tribal members for educational and training programs focused on clean energy careers, energy audits of community homes and public structures, replacement of traditional light fixtures with LED

fixtures in select structures, installation of air-source heat pumps in select structures, installation of solar beacon flashing traffic signs within the community, and installation of solar powered pole-mounted streetlights. No ground disturbing activities would occur.

MCHA shall adhere to the restrictions of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the State of Alabama, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>. In the event an activity would not meet the exemptions identified within the PA, MCHA shall consult with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to obtain concurrence prior to installation.

Activities proposed on federally recognized tribal lands or properties would be restricted to homes/buildings less than forty-five (45) years old and without ground disturbance. Recipients would contact the DOE Project Officer for a Historic Preservation Worksheet to request a review of activities proposed on tribal homes/buildings forty-five (45) years and older and/or ground disturbing activities. The DOE NEPA team must review the Historic Preservation Worksheet and notify the Recipient's DOE Project Officer before activities listed on the Historic Preservation Worksheet may begin.

DOE is required to consider floodplain management and wetland protection as part of its environmental review process (10 CFR 1022). As part of this required review, DOE determined requirements set forth in Subpart B of 10 CFR 1022 are not applicable to the activities listed above. If such activities were to occur in the 100-year floodplain (hereinafter "floodplain") or wetland, these activities would not cause short or long-term adverse impacts. These activities are administrative or minor modifications of existing facilities to improve environmental conditions. All other integral elements and environmental review requirements are still applicable.

Minimal air emissions may result from the use of diesel-powered vehicles during installation activities. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Hazards associated with the upgrades listed above include use of power tools, machinery, working with electricity and plumbing, and possible exposure to asbestos and lead-based paints. Employee and contractor training, proper protective equipment, and internal safety reviews and assessments would be utilized to mitigate hazards. The MOWA Choctaw Housing Authority and their subcontractors would obtain and comply with all local, state, and federal permits, regulations, and requirements pertaining to award activities. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. The MOWA Choctaw Housing Authority must adhere to the terms and restrictions of its DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement. DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreements are available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.

2. The MOWA Choctaw Housing Authority is responsible for reviewing the online NEPA and Historic preservation training at www.energy.gov/node/4816816 and contacting EECBG.NEPA@ee.doe.gov with any EECBG NEPA or historic preservation questions.

3. The MOWA Choctaw Housing Authority is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report at <https://forms.office.com/g/kAFs0N7CZH>.

4. Activities not identified within this NEPA determination may be subject to additional NEPA review and approval by DOE. For activities requiring additional NEPA review, Recipients must complete the environmental questionnaire (EQ-1) found at <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA.aspx> and receive notification from DOE that the NEPA review has been completed and approved by the Contracting Officer prior to initiating the project or activities.

5. Activities proposed on federally recognized tribal lands or properties would be restricted to homes/buildings less than forty-five (45) years old and without ground disturbance. Recipients would contact the DOE Project Officer for a Historic Preservation Worksheet to request a review of activities proposed on tribal homes/buildings forty-five (45) years and older and/or ground disturbing activities. The DOE NEPA team must review the Historic Preservation Worksheet and notify the Recipient's DOE Project Officer before activities listed on the Historic Preservation Worksheet may begin.

Notes:

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: **Matthew Blevins**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/26/2024

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: _____