

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



RECIPIENT: City of Decatur

STATE: GA

PROJECT TITLE : City of Decatur Police Department Clean Energy Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number Procurement Instrument Number NEPA Control Number CID Number
DE-EE0011270 GFO-0011270-001

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.)

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.

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.

B5.23 Electric vehicle charging stations

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of electric vehicle charging stations, using commercially available technology, within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions are limited to areas where access and parking are 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 Decatur to design, engineer, install and interconnect a microgrid and direct-current electric vehicle charger at the

Decatur Police Department facility in Decatur, Georgia. The proposed system would include a microgrid that consists of a roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array and paired lithium-ion battery energy storage system (BESS), a DC Fast Charger for vehicles as well as any other necessary components, including inverters and/or electrical panels.

The roof-mounted solar array would consist of approximately 425 400-watt panels, totaling 170-kilowatts (kW) of power. The battery is sized at 250 kW/500 kWh (power and capacity), which would consist of an unknown number of lithium-ion battery cells placed in a cabinet. This cabinet would be placed on a poured concrete pad, expected to be approximately 10 feet (width) by 15 feet (length) by 1 foot (depth), or 150 cubic feet of concrete. The project would also include 1 dual-port, pole-mounted DC fast charger.

Physical modifications to the facility would include any roof or exterior penetrations necessary to connect the solar array, battery, or DC fast charger to the facility's electrical service. Ground disturbing activities would be limited to boring or other activities necessary to create conduits connecting the DC fast charger to the facility and would occur in previously disturbed areas. Where possible, ground disturbance would be minimized in the system design and installation.

During the installation and interconnection of the system, it is expected that medium- and heavy-duty machinery would be necessary. This machinery would likely create emissions through the use of diesel or unleaded gasoline. The project would occur within a US Environmental Protection Agency Attainment Area for criteria pollutants.

The city would decommission system components at the end of their usable life. To the extent possible, these materials would be recovered and transported to recycling facilities as appropriate for reuse or second-life applications. Any materials from the system that cannot be reused or recycled would be disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

The Mary Gay House, located at 716 West Trinity Place in Decatur, Georgia, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (ID: 249723), and occurs approximately 700 feet to the west of the Police Department building. Given the prevalence of mature trees and the raised train right-of-way that separates this site from the proposed project, it is unlikely that there would be visual impacts associated with the project on this historic site.

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation there is one federally endangered plant (Michaux's sumac), a proposed federally endangered mammal (tricolored bat) and a candidate species for federal listing (monarch butterfly). A USFWS consistency letter for the project was generated on May 22, 2024, outlining no effects on any federally listed species or critical habitats as a result of project implementation, and that no further coordination with the Service is required.

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
NEPA review completed by Chris Akios, 05/23/2024

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: 5/24/2024
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