

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



**RECIPIENT:** United States Department of State

**STATE:** DC

**PROJECT TITLE :** Overcoming USG energy insecurity in South Africa

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002700	DE-SE0000824	GFO-SE0000824-001	

**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:

**B2.1 Workplace enhancements**

Modifications within or contiguous to an existing structure, in a previously disturbed or developed area, to enhance workplace habitability (including, but not limited to, installation or improvements to lighting, radiation shielding, or heating/ventilating/air conditioning and its instrumentation, and noise reduction).

**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 provide funding to the U.S. Department of State (State) to switch all U.S. government occupied residences in South Africa to solar photovoltaic-generated electricity and battery storage (BES). These activities would lessen the U.S. government's impact on local power grids.

Activities would include PV solar array installation on 25 residences in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, South Africa. Specific PV system designs would depend on the type of residence. Standard staff residences would have 36 PV panels with three powerwalls; representational residences would have larger contained battery systems with 120 PV panels; and residences that also serve as Alternate Command Centers would have 40 panels and six powerwalls. Installation would be overseen by the Mission South Africa facility management and general services team.

Because State is a federal agency, it is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project. This would include completing an environmental review for the project, including any necessary consultations and geotechnical or other surveys prior to a decision whether to proceed. If State proceeds with the proposed project after their NEPA review, they would be required to obtain all necessary permits and follow appropriate environmental, health, and safety measures. State must provide its final NEPA determination(s) to their DOE Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Technical Project Officer (TPO) or point of contact.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Because State is a federal agency, it is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). When State has completed its NEPA review process for the proposed project, State must provide its final NEPA determination(s) to their Department of Energy (DOE) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Technical Project Officer (TPO) or point of contact.

Notes:

Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP)  
This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.  
Review completed by Jason Spencer, 5/24/2024.

## 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.

DOE has determined that work to be carried out outside of the United States, its territories and possessions is exempt from further review pursuant to Section 5.1.1 of the DOE Final Guidelines for Implementation of Executive Order 12114; "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions."

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: Andrew Montano** \_\_\_\_\_ 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