

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



RECIPIENT: YWCA Kauai

STATE: HI

PROJECT TITLE : YWCA Kauai Solar-Plus_Storage Resilience Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010818	GFO-0010818-001	

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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to the YWCA Kauai (YWCA) to install a 4.8-kilowatt (kW) rooftop solar array on their administration building. A battery storage system would also be installed on the side of the building in order to power the YWCA during power outages.

This NEPA Determination (ND) only applies to Tasks 1 and 2, which would include contractor selection and design finalization. This NEPA Determination does not apply to Tasks 3, 4, and 5, which would consist of solar panel installation, testing, and monitoring, as well as staff training. Some details in Tasks 3, 4, and 5 are not yet fully defined and are contingent upon the outcomes of activities in Tasks 1 and 2. DOE would complete an additional NEPA review for the other tasks when sufficient information is available to conduct a meaningful review. All award activities would be carried out at the YWCA Administration Building (Lihue, HI).

The YWCA is located less than two miles from the Lihue Airport, which consists of two runways and a control tower. Although the YWCA is located less than three miles from the airport, the solar panels would be placed on the south or west side of the YWCA roof. Because the airport is almost due east and 18 degrees north, panels installed on the south or west side of the YWCA administration building would not cause any solar glare that could affect the control tower at the airport.

If, during design finalization, it is determined that solar panels must be placed on the east or north side of the YWCA administration building, the recipient shall stop the site-based activities immediately and inform the DOE Project Officer. A solar glare analysis would be required to be completed by the recipient prior to re-commencing project work.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of 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 conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Task 1 and Task 2

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Tasks 3, 4, and 5

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

If, during design finalization, it is determined that solar panels must be placed on the east or north side of the YMCA administration building, the recipient shall stop the site-based activities immediately and inform the DOE Project Officer. A solar glare analysis would be required to be completed by the recipient prior to re-commencing project work.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Alex Colling on 06/18/2024.

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.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  _____ Date: 6/27/2024
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