

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



RECIPIENT: City of Tampa

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE: Water Facilities Hydroelectric and Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010956	GFO-0010956-001	

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 Tampa (City) to implement the City's 2022 Climate Action and Equity Plan. The initiative would include the development of a two phased project which would include planning, design, and permitting for the hydroelectric generating station at the Hillsborough River Dam, which currently does not produce hydropower, and the installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays at the Morris Bridge Facility and Re-pump Facility (MBF).

Phase 1 award activities at the Hillsborough River Dam would include contract execution, review, preliminary design, and drafting plans/technical specifications up to 30% completion. The City would be responsible for all permitting activities that would need to occur for the hydroelectric generating station, and no construction activities would be allowed to occur as part of this award.

Phase 2 award activities at MBF would include a 300-kilowatt (kW) rooftop PV solar installation with a footprint of approximately 5,250 square feet. The City also plans to install a 1.5-megawatt PV ground mounted system on approximately seven acres of the MBF property. Project activities would include procuring a solar contractor, design, installation, and commissioning. The City would be responsible for acquiring all licenses and/or authorizations, including building permits, a net metering agreement with the local power utility, and an Environmental Resource Permit from Florida Department of Environmental Protection prior to construction activities.

No change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort. Potential hazards would include those associated with carrying out electrical and construction activities on a roof. Individuals working on this project could be exposed to physical hazards. Aside from typical construction hazards (e.g. water, suspended loads, trench safety) there are no additional known health and safety hazards. In order to mitigate safety hazards to the public or project workers, the general contractor would be required to implement a safety program for the construction site. This includes employing a competent safety representative onsite and monitor for compliance with procedures. Additionally, the site is private and there is no anticipated danger to the public. All potentially hazardous materials would be collected and identified for proper disposal. Non-hazardous waste such as excess dirt and miscellaneous metals are anticipated to be generated due to construction. The selected contractor would be responsible for either salvaging or properly disposing of their construction debris.

Project activities at MBF would require basic excavation for ground based solar and while the project would not directly impact wetlands, the project site is believed to be near wetlands. As a result, the contractor would be required to follow best practices for stormwater management during construction.

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 final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Phase 1: The City would be responsible for all permitting activities that would need to occur for the hydroelectric generating station, and no construction activities would be allowed to occur as part of this award.

Phase 2: The City would be responsible for acquiring all licenses and/or authorizations, including building permits, a net metering agreement with the local power utility, and an Environmental Resource Permit from Florida Department of Environmental Protection prior to construction activities.

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:



Andrew Montano

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/28/2024

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: