

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



**RECIPIENT:** White River School District 47-1

**STATE:** SD

**PROJECT TITLE :** White River Community Improvement

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> DE-FOA-0002756	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> DE-SE0000707	<b>NEPA Control Number</b> GFO-SE0000707-001	<b>CID Number</b> GO707
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**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.

Rationale for determination:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the White River School District 47-1 for energy conservation measures at the White River Campus which includes the High School, Middle School, Elementary School, and Community Event Center in White River, SD. Norris Elementary which is located on lands held in Trust for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in Norris, SD would also receive funding for energy efficiency improvements. The proposed activities are part of a plan to make ongoing improvements as funds become available to the school district.

Proposed activities at each location include:

White River Elementary School

- removal of the existing propane/fuel oil heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system,
- replacement of all windows and doors,
- installation of heat pumps,
- installation of Building Automation System (BAS) controls

#### White River Middle and High School (connected buildings)

- removal of the existing propane/fuel oil HVAC system,
- roof replacement,
- replacement of all windows and door,
- installation of heat pumps,
- installation of a central utility plant which would include replacement chillers with two housekeeping pads approximately 25'x10' and the addition of thermal energy storage tanks on concrete housekeeping pads, approximately 16' x 23' in a fenced off courtyard,
- replacement of boilers with new energy efficient boilers at the same location,
- installation of BAS controls

#### Community Event Center

- removal of the existing propane/fuel oil HVAC system,
- replacement of all window and doors,
- installation of heat pumps,
- Installation of BAS controls

The campus for the White River elementary, middle, and high school, and the Community Event Center are interconnected and would all benefit from the new HVAC system utilizing more energy efficient chillers and boilers with the addition of thermal energy storage for heating and cooling. All ground disturbance would occur on previously disturbed areas with existing HVAC equipment.

#### Norris Elementary

- removal of propane/fuel oil HVAC system,
- installation of high efficiency heat pumps located in an elementally protected space with supplemental heat and ventilation or equivalent alternative,
- addition of an interior wall in existing mechanical room,
- installation of BAS controls,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies one mammal (Northern Long-eared Bat), two birds (Rufa Red Knot and Whooping Crane), and one insect (Monarch Butterfly) that may occur in the project area. No trees are located at the project site for the Northern Long-eared Bat. The Rufa Red Knot nests on the Arctic Tundra. In migration and in winter, they are most often found on coastal and other mudflats, as well as occasionally being found on sandy beaches. None of these habitats exist at the project site. The Whooping crane is designated as non-essential populations in Wisconsin and consultation is only required if the proposed project occurs within a National or National Parks; the project would not occur within those land designations. The Monarch Butterfly prefers woodland edges where milkweeds are prevalent, but this environment is not in close proximity to the project site. Because of the nature and location of the project (i.e. installation of equipment on regularly disturbed ground from mowing) it is unlikely that any of the species of concern would be present in the project area. Additionally, the proposed project site is outside of the critical habitat of all listed species. Accordingly, DOE has determined there would be no effect on federally listed threatened or endangered species. Further, DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts to migratory bird species.

The recipient is working with their State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to ensure protection of cultural resources during the course of project activities, per their historic preservation programmatic agreement with DOE and the South Dakota SHPO for activities at the White River Elementary, Middle, and High School.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe concurred with a finding of "No historic properties affected" for activities at Norris Elementary School.

The proposed project may involve the use of heavy equipment and working with electricity, and hazardous materials such as asbestos and lead. Potential hazards would be mitigated through adherence to established institutional health and safety policies and procedures. The sub-recipient and their partners would adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

Any changes to the project activities or locations are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for federal funding unless and until the Contracting Officer provides written authorization on those additions or modifications.

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs – Schools EE/RE Retrofits  
Community Energy Programs - Public School and Non-Profit Programs  
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 7/11/24

**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: 7/11/2024

**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: \_\_\_\_\_