

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



RECIPIENT: Hillsborough County

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE: Hillsborough County Falkenburg Warehouse Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002882	DE-SE0000568	GFO-SE0000568-001	

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 provide funding to Hillsborough County for modifying and expanding an existing solar photovoltaic system on the roof of the Falkenburg Warehouse Building B, in Brandon, FL. This project would be funded under the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the DOE's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program Formula Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (EECBG Formula - IIJA).

Proposed activities include designing and expanding the existing photovoltaic roof mounted panel system. There would be a total of 1010 panels with 1540 Kilowatts of energy (an increase of 483 Kilowatts). The expansion would include new wall mounted inverters, additional inverters as alternates, and new underground and surface mounted 1 ½" conduit running from the panels to the inverters. The project area is approximately 133,600 square feet. There would be limited ground disturbance in a regularly maintained area adjacent to the building involving trenching for the installation of new underground conduit.

DOE does not expect any impacts to ESA-listed species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies 11 candidate, proposed, threatened, and endangered species in the project area: Tricolored Bat, Eastern Black Rail, Everglade Snail Kite, Whooping Crane, Wood Stork, American Crocodile, Eastern Indigo Snake, Hawksbill Sea Turtle, Leatherback Sea Turtle, Monarch butterfly, and Pygmy Fringe-tree. There are no critical habitats identified within the proposed project area. The trenching for the conduits is in an area that is regularly maintained and there would be no trees removed. Therefore, no effects to ESA-listed species are anticipated from this project.

The recipient would work directly 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 FL SHPO.

Minimal air emissions may result from the use of diesel-powered vehicles during the installation of the new panels, inverters, and conduits. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Hazards associated with the activities include working at elevated heights with electricity and electrical equipment. Existing government health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed, including personnel training, proper personal protective equipment (PPE), and engineering controls.

Hillsborough County, Florida would observe all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental

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

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. Hillsborough County must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of Florida, available at <https://www.energy.gov/scep/articles/nebraska-state-historic-preservation-programmatic-agreement>.
2. If during project activities the recipient or their contractors encounter any cultural materials (i.e. historic or prehistoric), all activities must cease in the vicinity of the discovery immediately. The recipient must inform the State Historic Preservation Office and DOE Project Officer of the discovery so that an evaluation of the discovery can be completed prior to continuing work.
3. Hillsborough County is responsible for reviewing the online NEPA and Historic preservation training at www.energy.gov/node/4816816 and contacting EECBG.NEPA@ee.doe.gov with any EECBG NEPA or historic preservation questions.
4. Hillsborough County is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report in the Performance and Accountability for Grants in Energy system (PAGE) located at <https://www.page.energy.gov/default.aspx>.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs – EECBG
NEPA review completed by Emily Cohen, 07172024

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:



Matthew Blevins

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/17/2024

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: _____