

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



RECIPIENT: ND Commerce

STATE: ND

PROJECT TITLE: North Dakota State College of Science Energy Auditor Training Facility

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
SEP IJJAALRD 2022A	DE-EE0010091	GFO-0010091-001	

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.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

B3.14 Small-scale educational facilities Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of small-scale educational facilities (including, but not limited to, conventional teaching laboratories, libraries, classroom facilities, auditoriums, museums, visitor centers, exhibits, and associated offices) within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Operation may include, but is not limited to, purchase, installation, and operation of equipment (such as audio/visual and laboratory equipment) commensurate with the educational purpose of the facility.

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 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the North Dakota Department of Commerce for the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSOS) to build a training facility on the main campus in Wahpeton, ND, for energy auditor training and education as part of the initiative to develop an energy audit certificate program.

Proposed activities would include the design, construction, and installation of a small duplex structure on NDSCS property. The building would be built with half of it involving standard construction methods and materials and the other half utilizing higher performance structural insulated panels (SIPs). Electrical lighting and outlets (interior and exterior) would be installed as well as separate electrical service panels, heat pump power, and refrigeration lines for each half.

There would be 9 kW roof mounted solar panels and heat pump condensing units installed. The construction of the duplex would involve ground disturbance in an area that is regularly maintained and mowed. The ground disturbance would include removal of topsoil and adding engineered fill under the slab (on grade). The duplex would be approximately 40' x29' and the electrical, water, and gas line connections would require trenching.

DOE agrees with the State Historic Preservation Officer's (SHPO) determination that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project, per North Dakota SHPO reference #24-0301. The recipient would continue to work directly with their SHPO to ensure protection of cultural resources during project activities, per their historic preservation programmatic agreement with DOE and the North Dakota SHPO.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) report run on 08092024 identifies one candidate (Monarch Butterfly) and one proposed threatened (Western Regal Fritillary), species which may occur in the proposed project area on NDSCS' campus. Potentially one tree would be removed. The project site does not host suitable or critical habitats for the listed species. The Western Regal Fritillary utilizes native grasslands, and the Monarch butterfly requires open areas with flowers and milkweed. DOE has determined the proposed project would have no effect to threatened, endangered or candidate species in the area.

Minimal air emissions may result from the use of diesel-powered vehicles and construction equipment during the construction of the training duplex. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Hazards associated with construction activities include working with electrical and heavy construction equipment. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed by the North Dakota State College of Science.

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

The awardee must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of North Dakota, available at: <https://www.energy.gov/scep/articles/north-dakota-programmatic-agreement>.

The awardee is responsible for reviewing the online NEPA and Historic preservation training at www.energy.gov/node/4816816 and contacting GoNEPA@ee.doe.gov with any SEP NEPA or historic preservation questions.

The awardee 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>.

In the event that human remains, or archaeological materials are encountered during construction or installation activities, work must be halted, and the North Dakota SHPO and DOE Project Officer must be notified immediately.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

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:  _____ Date: 8/14/2024
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