

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



RECIPIENT: City of South Bend, Indiana

STATE: IN

PROJECT TITLE: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Equipment Rebate Voucher for South Bend, Indiana

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002882		GFO-SouthBendIN-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 the City of South Bend for installation of rooftop solar panels located at 1222 S Michigan Street, South Bend, Indiana. 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).

Award activities would involve the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Central Fire Station building. Although project specs would be determined once a solar installer is selected, the solar array system would be no greater than 300 kilowatts. Installation would require the use of a crane, and the panels and racking system would be installed using hand drills. The racking system would be a mounting system, which would not compromise the roof warranty. Electrical work would be required to wire the panels and inverter(s) to the building. Coordination with the local utility company, Indiana Michigan Power, would occur to facilitate ties into the electrical grid. The Central Fire Station is currently in the process of replacing its roof. Roof replacement would occur regardless of the DOE award.

Proposed activities would not result in any operational changes to existing facilities, ground disturbance, or potential health and safety hazards to the public or project workers. Physical modifications would be required to install the rooftop solar array and connect it to the building's existing electrical system. A mitigation plan would be developed to ensure power for critical functions would not be interrupted during construction and installation of the solar array.

The City of South Bend must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the State of Indiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The Central Fire Station was built in 2004. Under the PA, this project is exempt from further Section 106 consultation because the building is less than 45 years old.

Potential air emissions would be limited to vehicles and a crane to support the transport and installation of the solar panels. While the project site is located in a non-attainment air quality area, construction work would only last a few days and emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Waste generated onsite would include materials from the solar panel packaging and installation, such as cardboard, wiring, and plastic. Existing government and corporate health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed, including personnel training, proper personal protective equipment (PPE), monitoring, and internal assessments. The City of South Bend and their contractors would observe all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations and requirements, and would obtain and comply with all applicable permits. 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. The City of South Bend must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of Indiana, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.
- 2. The City of South Bend 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.
- 3. The City of South Bend is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report at <https://forms.office.com/g/kAFs0N7CZH>.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs - EECBG
NEPA review completed by Nick Iraola, 08/23/2024

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.

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: 8/23/2024

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 :