

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



RECIPIENT: City of Portage, MI

STATE: MI

PROJECT TITLE: City of Portage City Hall Solar

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002988		GFO-PortageMI-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 Portage to install a 159.90-kilowatt (kW) rooftop solar array on the Portage City Hall located at 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, Michigan 49002-5117. 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 - IJJA) Equipment Rebate Voucher Program.

Award activities would involve the installation of a 159.90-kW, 390-panel solar array on the roof of the Portage City Hall building and connection to the building electrical system. Supporting equipment includes micro inverters, mounting rails, and wiring and interconnection material to integrate with the current system. The proposed activity would not result in any ground disturbances or change in building use. The solar panels would be visible from the public right-of-way along Center Street and South Westnedge Avenue.

The City 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 MI SHPO. Award activities are exempt per the Michigan programmatic agreement, as the City Hall was constructed in 1988 and is less than 50 years old.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies five special status species (Indiana bat [endangered], whooping crane [non-essential experimental population], eastern massasauga [threatened], Mitchell's satyr butterfly [endangered], and monarch butterfly [candidate]), which may occur in the project site. No suitable or critical habitats are identified within the project site. Since no ground disturbance or tree trimming would occur, and the project site is fully developed, effects to the above-listed special status species are not anticipated.

Minimal air emissions may result from the use of equipment and vehicles during installation of solar panels and equipment delivery. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Hazards associated with solar panel installation include use of power tools, machinery, working at elevated heights, use of scaffolding and lifts, and working with electricity. Employee training, proper protective equipment, and internal safety reviews and assessments would be utilized to mitigate hazards. The City of Portage would observe and comply with 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. The City of Portage must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of Michigan, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.
- 2. The City of Portage 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 Portage is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report at <https://forms.office.com/g/kAFs0N7CZH>.

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 Blevis**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/16/2024

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: