

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



RECIPIENT: Mecklenburg County

STATE: NC

PROJECT TITLE: EECBG Program Voucher

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002882		GFO-MecklenburgNC-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 Mecklenburg County to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) array at the Mecklenburg County Emergency Medical Services headquarters building (hereinafter the Medic Headquarters) located in Charlotte, North Carolina. This project would be funded under the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program Formula Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Award activities would involve the installation of a 500-kilowatt solar PV array on the roof of the Medic Headquarters. The roof-mounted solar array would include approximately 1,800 solar panels, along with a ballasted racking system and inverters. Electric panels and associated electrical conduit and cabling would be installed as needed. A crane would be needed as part of the construction project.

No ground disturbance, facility modifications, or changes in use to the Medic Headquarters are anticipated. No tree removal or trimming would be required for the project. The project would not require review from the State Historic Preservation Officer because the Medic Headquarters building is less than 45 years old. Therefore, the project qualifies for exemption under the North Carolina Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement.

The project would be located within two miles of the Charlotte Douglas International Airport. This airport contains an air traffic control tower (ATCT), but the ATCT is located over two miles away from the proposed solar array installation. Therefore, there would not be any concerns regarding solar glare from the rooftop solar array.

Minimal air emissions may result from vehicles and equipment that would be used to install the solar array, but emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Existing government and corporate health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed, including personnel training, proper personal protective equipment, monitoring, and internal assessments.

Mecklenburg County 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. Mecklenburg County must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of North Carolina, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.
2. Mecklenburg 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.
3. Mecklenburg County is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report in the MS Forms website. Please contact your DOE Project Officer for the link to the online form.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs - EECBG
 This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
 NEPA review completed by Nick Iraola, 10/18/2024

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:  Matthew Blevins Date: 10/18/2024
 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