PMC-EF2a

(2/04/02)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION

RECIPIENT: City of Montrose **STATE:** CO

PROJECT TITLE : EECBG - Onsite Renewable Technology

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000013	DE-EE0000913	GFO-0000913-001	0

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

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.

Rational for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide $105,000 in EECBG funding to the City of Montrose to install a 150 kW, ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) array at an existing, City-owned communication site located on Sunset Mesa. Total post installation footprint would be 47,000 square-feet.

The electricity produced from the 150 kW array would offset one hundred-percent of the electricity used at the site and twenty-percent of the electricity used at the Elks Civic Building in downtown Montrose.

The proposed site (2307 Sunset Mesa Road, Montrose, Colorado 81401) is vacant, open space located on top of a mesa, one mile southwest of the City of Montrose. The property is zoned Light-Industrial (I-I). Currently, there are two existing buildings on the proposed site including a public, 600 square-foot communication building and a storage building used by a service club. The surrounding area below the mesa includes a City park and sports complex.

The City of Montrose proposes to install a 150 kW (644, 235-watt), ground-mounted PV array on previously disturbed land. An eight foot, chain-linked fence would enclose the proposed array. Ground disturbance (during construction 100,000 square-feet) would be limited to installation of array support foundations and approximately 200 feet (two feet deep by one foot wide) of underground cables. The proposed arrays would be mounted on a racking system supported by one foot in diameter cement pier foundations. The depth of the foundations would vary between three feet and seven feet. The system would be grid connected. Existing distribution lines serving the communications building would be used. The electricity produced would first power the communication building and the excess energy would be delivered to the offsite facility.

In a letter dated September 19, 2011, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) determined "no major concerns to wildlife or wildlife habitat associated with any threatened and endangered species." However, CPW did express concern for the small population of white tailed prairie dogs currently occupying the proposed site. Due to urban developments on Sunset Mesa, white tailed prairie dog habitat has been greatly fragmented and reduced. CPW recommends the proposed site to encompass as little of the active prairie dog colony as possible. "For mitigation efforts, that the area of undisturbed land directly adjacent (West) to the proposed site be left as potential habitat for the existing population of white tailed prairie dogs to move into." The City of Montrose is committed to following CPWs recommendation.

On October 6, 2011, the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) determined "no historic or archeological resources will be affected by this project."

All waste will be removed from the site. A Stormwater Management Plan will be prepared and submitted to the City Engineer for review, approval and implementation of Best Management Practices prior to construction.

Based on this information, DOE has determined the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in categorical exclusion B5.16 (installation of solar photovoltaic systems).

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Cristina Tyler 1.11.2012

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 1/19/2012

NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

☐ Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

☐ Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.

☐ Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Field Office Manager