PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: City of Onawa, Iowa (EECBG Subrecipient of the Iowa Office of Energy Independence

STATE: IA

PROJECT TITLE : Electric Distribution Improvements – Northwest Conversion

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
EE FOA 0000013			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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

Rational for determination:

The City of Onawa, IA proposes to use $456,000 of EECBG funds for the design, engineering, materials and construction of electric distribution retrofit improvements that will allow for the conversion of an existing 2400 V overhead system to an underground 13.2 kV system. The new electrical utility lines will be installed via open trenching (+/- 2"W X 42"D X varying lengths) and directional boring under existing concrete areas (+/- 24"W X 48"D x varying lengths) within City owned rights-of-way in the rear areas of lots along 25 blocks in northwest Onawa. The project is generally located between Emerald Street and Highway 175 north to south, and between 15th St. and 11th St. west to east. Also, between Emerald Street and Cameo Street north to south, and between 11th St. and 9th St. west to east.

Contractors will bore under landscaping and concrete when needed. Grass will be replanted and properties will be left as they were found. The trenching and boring area of disturbance is not expected to exceed one acre.
The proposed project is anticipated to result in electricity savings of 1,214,427 kWh annually by reducing transmission losses from the current 8% to 9% loss down to the expected system line loss of 3% to 4%. The City of Onawa is the utility provider and all permits have been approved.

Potential environmental impacts for the project include:
• The SHPO reviewed the project and determined that no historic properties will be affected.
• There would be no impacts to any biological resources including threatened and endangered species, general wildlife, sensitive habitats, or wetlands as the project is located in previously disturbed residential areas in City right-of-way.
• The proposed project will not impact any wetlands, waters, or floodplains as it is located in a developed urban area. Ground disturbance will be less than one acre.
•The contractor will comply with the City of Onawa Policy for the Handling of Transformers Pulled from the Field. Units are tested for PCB contamination and if found to have > 2ppm they will be tagged and properly disposed of by a contractor.
•The contractor will recycle and reuse whenever possible. Several thousand feet of overhead copper and aluminum wire will be removed and recycled. Line poles will be saved for reuse lighting or fencing if in good quality and the poor quality poles will be delivered to the land fill.

Based on the above information and proposed electricity savings of 1,214,427 kWh annually, this project is Categorically Excluded from further NEPA review under CX B5.1, Actions to Conserve Energy.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 7/28/2010

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