PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: El Paso, TX **STATE:** TX

PROJECT TITLE : PV Solar Demonstration Project ARRA-EECBG-City of El Paso, TX

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000013	DE-EE0000964	GFO-0000964-003	GO964

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.
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.)
B3.14 Small-scale educational facilities	Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of small-scale educational facilities (including, but not limited to, conventional teaching laboratories, libraries, classroom facilities, auditoriums, museums, visitor centers, exhibits, and associated offices) within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Operation may include, but is not limited to, purchase, installation, and operation of equipment (such as audio/visual and laboratory equipment) commensurate with the educational purpose of the facility.

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided funding to the City of El Paso, Texas under the DOE's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). El Paso proposes to use $200,000 to install a gazebo with solar photovoltaic panels.

The proposed project would install a 900 watt solar photovoltaic system onto a newly constructed park gazebo. The gazebo would provide outlets marked for use by residents. The project would be constructed in a new pocket park to be located at the cross streets of N. Santa Fe St. and Missouri, adjacent to the El Paso Museum of History 510 N. Santa Fe St., El Paso, Texas 79901. The park would be located in a commercial area near other city and office buildings including City Hall.

The proposed project would excavate one foot deep for concrete footings for the structure. The project would not require any new trenching for electrical wiring; the electricity would be used directly in the gazebo. The project would be utilized as a renewable energy demonstration and for educational purposes. The park would have signs on the north and south sides of the pavilion providing information about how solar photovoltaics operate and other installations in the City.

The proposed project would not have adverse effects on threatened and endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or cultural resources, as these resources are not known to occur at the proposed sites. SHPO provided a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties dated 11-30-2011.

Based on review of project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the installation of the proposed solar photovoltaic system would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed charging station is consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," B3.14 "small-scale educational facilities," and B5.16 "solar photovoltaic systems" and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Any further projects will require a separate NEPA determination review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Diana Scott 7.25.2012

DOE EECBG: $200,000

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 7/26/2012

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