PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

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

**RECIPIENT:** American Samoa Territorial Energy Office **STATE:** AS

**PROJECT TITLE :** Renewable Energy: Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Grid System Overflow

| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| | DE-EE0000218 | GFO-0000218-010 | |

**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:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided funding to the American Samoa Territorial Energy Office (ASTEO) under the DOE's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Energy Program (SEP). ASTEO elected the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) to receive $9,000,000 in SEP funding.

ASPA has used ~$7,500,000 to install 1.5MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels at Pago Pago International Airport. ASPA now proposes to use the remainder of federal funds to install an additional 500kW at the airport at an "overflow" site.

The overflow site has been previously disturbed via bulldozer by airport officials in order to clear vegetation, leveled for security and to prevent birds from nesting near the runway. The dimensions of PV system at the overflow site would be ~400' L x 410' W x 5' H. The PV system would use seven (7) 150 kW inverters and would be grid-connected via two (2) 480V to 13.2kV pad-mounted transformers. The pad-mounted transformers would be connected to the grid via underground riser cables to a single 3 Phase 13.2 kW overhead power line that would be approximately 1 mile in length. There are currently three (3) power poles already installed on this site, which would be utilized for this project. No Purchase Power Agreement is needed as ASPA is implementing this project and the PV system would tie directly into their existing lines. Prior to receiving a NEPA review on the overflow site, ASPA poured concrete for the foundations and installed the racking and mounting system. However, based on the previously disturbed nature of the site and because the Federal Aviation Administration provided clearance and a No Hazard determination for the project, and the lack of any extraordinary circumstances at the project location, DOE has determined these actions did not significantly impact the human environment.

Based on a review of the file and the above analysis, DOE has determined the project will not significantly impact the human environment and it categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX B5.16 "solar photovoltaic systems."

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

DOE funding ~$1.5M
EF2a prepared by Melissa Rossiter

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 3/29/2012
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