PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity **STATE:** IL

PROJECT TITLE: Illinois SEP Solar Project - Austin Building Corp

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052			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 State of Illinois will provide $2,000,000 in Recovery Act funds to Austin Building Corporation (Austin) to install a 2.5MW roof mounted solar panel array at its Chicago, Illinois facility. The facility is located at 1900 N. Austin Avenue, Chicago, IL, which is located within a federal enterprise zone (5) in Chicago's Austin neighborhood. The Austin facility has a footprint and a roof surface of approximately 590,000sqft with a 5-story office tower in the south mid-section of the building. The one story building's roof is comprised of layered vinyl rubber roofing material. The structural joist system is comprised of a column and beam system capped with a flat bar joist system and panel points. An engineering assessment of the building indicates that it is structurally sound and will support the PV racking.

The conceptual design for the PV rooftop consists of a 2.5 MW "fixed mount" racked PV system designed around Wanxiang VVXS185S mono silicon PV modules and MPPT inverters. The system will include all copper wiring in EMT conduit with watertight fittings on the roof and in the building. The PV modules will be rack mounted on aluminum rails with legs in one-string segments. Austin has applied for the permits needed to start construction and deploy the system. The project is fully compliant with state and local government ordinances and requirements.

The proposed project is located in a mostly commercial area of Chicago. The project will not increase the footprint of the Austin facility and no construction or expansion of the existing building is planned beyond installation of the solar array. The project will have no impact on wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, or historical sites.

Based on the information provided by the State and recipient, this work is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1 "actions to conserve energy."

NEPA PROVISION

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is $2,000,000. Unless there is a significant change in the scope of work, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 4/30/10

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