PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: City of Lincoln, NE **STATE:** NE

PROJECT TITLE: DE EE0000664 City of Lincoln NE EECBG Project #18 Energy Demonstration Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000013	DE-EE0000664.003		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.

A9 Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

A11 Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rational for determination:

The City of Lincoln would utilize EECBG funds to establish an energy demonstration and outreach project including production of educational outreach materials, and contractual and consultant services for planning and implementation of the project. The demonstration project would include highlighting energy efficiency and building practice upgrades being used in the surrounding area, the promotion of district energy use in the area through the non-profit District Energy Corporation (City-County entity that provides district energy, heating, and cooling to many government buildings), and promotion of renewable energy (including solar, wind, geothermal and participation in district energy) in the immediate area. The program would operate out of the Great Plains Trail Center to be constructed in Union Plaza, thereby providing a venue for intensive educational programs for consumers, home builders, developers, etc. Technical services would be retained to develop the demonstration and education projects, including studies on the applicability of a district energy project in the area. The City would install renewable energy features in planned Trego Park/Union Plaza building upgrades as well as planned new building construction, and then use these new features as the core of an approximately 20-block energy efficiency/renewable energy "demonstration area." Other buildings in this demonstration area will benefit through other City of Lincoln EECBG funded activities.

While specific renewable energy projects have not been identified, the City has stated that EECBG funds shall be limited to the following range of projects:
o Solar Electricity/Photovoltaic - appropriately sized system or unit on existing rooftops and parking shade structures; or a 60 KW system or smaller unit installed on the ground within the boundaries of an existing facility.
o Wind Turbine - 20 KW or smaller.
o Solar Thermal - system must be 20 KW or smaller.
o Solar Thermal Hot Water - appropriately sized for residences or small commercial buildings.
o Ground Source Heat Pump - 5.5 tons of capacity or smaller, horizontal/vertical, ground, closed-loop system.
o Combined Heat and Power System - boilers sized appropriately for the buildings in which they are located.
o Biomass Thermal - 3 MMBTUs per hour or smaller system with appropriate Best Available Control Technologies (BACT) installed and operated.

Proposed renewable energy projects associated with the Energy Demonstration Project that fall outside the above limitations will require a separate DOE NEPA review and approval.

This activity constitutes actions to conserve energy, information gathering, and technical advice and planning assistance and is therefore categorically excluded under NEPA under CX A9, CX A11, and CX B5.1.

Floodplain Assessment
The area designated as Union Plaza is within the historic 100-year floodplain of the Antelope Creek (within Antelope Valley). A major redevelopment project has been underway in this area for many years to address roadway and stormwater management improvements. A significant component of that redevelopment has been construction of a combination of new and rehabilitated flood control channel improvements that would reduce and confine the 100-year floodplain within the channel banks along Antelope Creek. These improvements are part of a joint federal/local project for which an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared in 2001. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was the lead federal agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was a cooperating agency. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by the FHWA on October 31, 2001. In part, the ROD concluded that, "The project will increase the channel capacity to contain the 100-year design flood within the channel banks, except for minor ponding in low areas near the downstream end, would allow changing development restrictions on land currently within the floodplain, and would provide an opportunity for a continuous bike trail around downtown."

Development discussed within the recipient's project description that would benefit from the renewable energy demonstration projects fall within the redevelopment areas described in the EIS. Portions also fall within the pre-stormwater management improvement 100-year floodplain boundary. The revised 100-year floodplain boundary is expected to be finalized in the fall of 2010. The Great Plains Trail Center will be outside the revised floodplain boundary, as will all of Trego Park and the remainder of the proposed "demonstration area" to the east and west of the creek.

Based on the extensive analysis that was conducted to support the stormwater management improvements to minimize impacts from flooding events, and the redevelopment improvements along Antelope Creek, implementation of the proposed limited renewable energy and education projects within the planned redevelopment area will not contribute to increased flooding events or flood impacts in the area.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
Recipient shall ensure the safety and structural integrity of any repair, replacement, construction and/or alteration performed under this project.

Prior to the expenditure of Federal funds the recipient has the affirmative responsibility to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Section 106 applies to historic properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If applicable, the recipient must contact the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to coordinate the Section 106 review outlined in 30 CFR Part 800. Supporting documentation will be reviewed by the DOE as part of its post-award monitoring.

Prior to the expenditure of Federal funds the recipient has the affirmative responsibility to ensure that it has a waste management plan addressing waste generated by their proposed actions. The plan will describe the plan to dispose of any sanitary or hazardous waste, e.g. construction and demolition debris, old light bulbs, lead ballasts, piping, roofing materials, discarded equipment, debris, packaging materials, asbestos, etc. generated as a result of the proposed project. The recipient must ensure that it will comply with all federal, state and local regulations for waste disposal.

Multiple same technology installations (multiple wind turbines for example) shall not be installed on any individual property/building such that they exceed the technology-specific limitations described above. In any instance where such a project is proposed, a separate DOE NEPA review and approval will be required.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 5/7/10
NEPA Compliance Officer