PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: City of St. Petersburg **STATE:** FL

PROJECT TITLE : St. Petersburg Solar Pilot Project (FL)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0000284	GFO-0000284-003	GO284

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 City of St. Petersburg proposes to use $13,375 in DOE funding to facilitate the construction and operation of a ground-mounted, 720 W solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The proposed project would be installed at the Pinellas Science Center located at 7701 22nd Avenue, St. Petersburg, Florida 33710.

The proposed site is located in a residential and commercial area. The proposed system would be located on the north side of the property, which is surrounded by trees on the west, north and east side. The Carol Samuels Observatory (Observatory), constructed in 1997, is located 60 feet south of the proposed PV site. The Science Center, constructed in 1959, is southwest from the proposed site.

A new concrete pad (4 ft. (l) X 4 ft. (w) X 1 ft. (h)) would be constructed to support the proposed PV system. The concrete would be poured over compacted grade. Sixty ft. of trenching, 1-2 ft. deep, would be required to connect the ground-mounted PV system to the Observatory.

The PV system would be mounted on a structural frame anchored to the concrete pad with structural steel reinforcements 3" from the edge of the slab. PV panels would be supported by aluminum pipe columns with 3/4" x 12" round base with 3/4" anchor bolts with leveling nuts. The aluminum pipe column would have an inner pipe for 360 degrees movability with a locking handle, with the Kyocera PV panel attached to the column.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website identified ten endangered or threatened species within Pinellas County, Florida. DOE has determined that these species would not be affected because the proposed project would occur on previously disturbed property. There are not any floodplains or wetlands within reasonable proximity to the proposed project location.

The Science Center has been in operation since 1959 and, based on age, could be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In a letter dated 4-19-2012, DOE provided a recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties or cultural resources. Because 30 days have passed and a SHPO response has not been received, DOE will proceed with the finding of no adverse effect. If unanticipated discoveries are made during construction, St. Petersburg and its contractors will halt construction and contact the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and DOE.

Based on review of project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the construction of the ground-mounted solar photovoltaic system would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B5.16 "solar photovoltaic systems" as the construction of the project comprises less than 10

acres within a previously disturbed or developed area and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX B5.16.

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 5.24.2012

DOE Funding: $13,375

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 5/31/2012

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