PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0000218	GFO-0000218-008	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:

This NEPA determination is a re-scope for GFO-0000218-007 (CX B5.1) signed on March 3, 2011 to install 1 MW of ground-mounted, photovoltaic (PV) solar panels adjacent to Runway 5/23 on the west side of the Tafuna International Airport.

DOE is proposing to provide $9,000,000 in SEP ARRA funding (the original funding amount) to American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) to install 1.5 MW of PV panels. Because the cost of solar panels has fallen, ASPA could purchase 500 kW more of PV panels for the same project cost.

The proposed fifty-percent increase in PV panels would be installed on the originally proposed 3.9 acres of land. The array would cover 3.7 acres. The proposed location for the PV array was 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 would be 400' L x 410' W x 5' H. The PV panels would face North, while the inbound flights would land in an Eastern direction. 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.

The original NEPA determination analyzes the following resource areas: land disturbance, air quality, water quality, wetlands, cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, visual impact, Federal Aviation Administration, Right of Way and Land Lease Agreement/Use Permit.

Based on this information, DOE has determined the fifty-percent increase of PV panels on the originally proposed 3.9 acres is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1 (actions to conserve energy).

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer

identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Cristina Tyler 10.17.2011

DOE Funding: $9,000,000
Total Project Cost: $9,000,000

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 10/17/11
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