PMC-EF2a
(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: State of Louisiana--Louisiana Department of Natural Resources **STATE:** LA

PROJECT TITLE : ARRA EECBG-State of Louisiana Pointe Coupe Parish

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000013	DE-EE0000735	GFO-0000735-005	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 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has granted the State of Louisiana a formula grant under the DOE's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program. Louisiana administers the EECBG Program and can select cities and counties to receive pass-through EECBG funding. Louisiana selected Pointe Coupee Parish to receive $152,000 in EECBG funding for the for the installation of a 200 ton closed loop lake plate ground source heat pump system to serve the Pointe Coupee Parish Court House (215 East Main Street, New Roads, LA) and the Courthouse Annex Building (160 East Main Street, New Roads, LA).

In addition to the lake plate installation and piping, the Parish would be replacing existing HVAC equipment with new equipment (boilers, chillers, fan coil units, pumps, etc.). The lake plate heat exchange unit would be approximately 16'x24'x5' tall and located in False River (an oxbow-shaped lake that was once part of the main channel of the Mississippi River). Approximately 800' of dual 6" high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe would be used to run from the rear of the Courthouse (north end) to the False River. The piping would be directionally drilled below grade from the Courthouse to the subsurface shoreline of the False River. Drilling would take place on County property and would pass under Main Street in New Roads, LA, on route to the river. The heat exchange unit would be located approximately 65' offshore of the lake, at a depth of between 15' and 20'. Municipal tap water would serve as the heat exchange fluid within the system.

The Parish is required to obtain a Class D Permit (structures other than wharves and piers on state water bottoms) and Lease Agreement from the State Land Office of the Division of Administration. Obtaining the permit requires review at the local and state level and the submittal of an extensive permit application (yet to be completed) detailing such things as local approvals, documentation of land ownership, detailed project maps and figures, site-specific water body conditions (water depths, high/low water lines), elevation details, system dimensions, and detailed drawings. The Class D permit can be denied or limited if it is determined, based on further evaluation, that the project would obstruct or hinder navigability, impose undue restrains on public rights, or result in unreasonable adverse impacts to the environment.

Per discussion with the Regulatory Branch of the US Army Corps of Engineers' New Orleans district, False River is not subject to the navigational oversight of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and the Corps has no jurisdiction over navigation on the water body. Based on the proposed method of construction (subsurface directional drilling), the Corps did not anticipate environmental impacts that would warrant permitting but requested additional project information regarding the proposed project. DOE submitted this information in October 2011.

Neither facility is located within a special flood hazard area based on review of current FEMA maps.

There are two threatened/endangered federally-listed species within Pointe Coupee Parish, the Louisiana Black Bear (Ursus americanus leteolus; threatened) and the Pallid Sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus; endangered). Based on a preliminary discussion with the USFWS Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office, adverse impacts to the listed species are not anticipated based on the project location, and the condition of the False River being a lake with no current hydrologic connection to the Mississippi River. The USFWS requested additional project information regarding the proposed project. DOE submitted this information in October 2011. DOE has determined that the proposed project will have no effect to either listed species and submitted that determination to the USFWS.

The Courthouse building was constructed in 1902 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. The Annex Building was constructed in 1984 and would not be eligible for listing at this time. In July 2010, the Louisiana State Energy Office, the Louisiana SHPO, and DOE executed the Programmatic Agreement Regarding EECBG, SEP, and WAP Undertakings. A review of the proposed action against the Programmatic Agreement indicates that the anticipated activities fall within the bounds of Appendix B (SEP and EECBG Undertakings Exempt from Section 106 Review), Category 1.1, and therefore would not require consultation with the SHPO.

After a thorough review of the information submitted for the proposed project, it has been determined that the actions involved will not have a significant impact to human health and /or the environment. The proposed project will result in a reduction in the use of conventional fossil fuels; therefore it is hereby Categorically Excluded from further NEPA review under category 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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
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.

Prior to the expenditure of Federal funds to implement the above project, obtain a Class D Permit (structures other than wharves and piers on state water bottoms) and Lease Agreement from the State Land Office of the Division of Administration.

Follow appropriate state or local procedures (i.e., Louisiana One Call) to ensure existing underground utility lines and systems are surveyed and marked prior to drilling.

Note to Specialist :

EF2a completed by James Ferro. Please contact Melissa Rossiter with questions.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 10/6/2011
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.