PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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

RECIPIENT: TX STATE ENERGY CONSERVATION OFFICE **STATE:** TX

PROJECT TITLE : CITY OF LA FERIA-PLANT 1 -SOLAR PROJECT

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE0000116	GFO-0000116-024	EE116

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:

DOE is proposing to provide $900,000 in SEP ARRA funding to the Texas State Energy Conservation Office, sub-recipient City of La Feria Waste Water Treatment Plant, to purchase and install a ground-mounted, 135 kW photovoltaic (PV) solar array. All work would be completed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant on 1601 Rabb Road, La Feria, TX 78599.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant was constructed in 2009. The proposed site is zoned industrial and the surrounding land is agriculture. A residential area, 400 feet east of the plant, is buffered by an elevated irrigation canal. Both the north and south lots are vacant. The north lot would have a 60 kW array and the south lot would have a 75 kW array. Both lots are graded and contain overgrown grass and weeds.

The system would consist of forty-two, south-facing, 3.2 kW ground-mount assemblies mounted on an 18-inch (diameter) and 10 feet (height) drilled pier racking system. Per local design requirements, the system would be structurally designed to withstand 120 mph wind speeds. The proposed project would require trenching to contain the electrical lines (925 feet (l) X 4 feet (d) X 2 feet (w)). The system would be connected via a net-meter interconnect agreement with the electrical utility American Electric Power. Total footprint of the proposed project would be 40,075 square-feet (0.92 acre).

All waste materials would be collected and stored in a securely lidded metal dumpster. The storm water pollution plan for the proposed project would entail the use of "Soil Stabilization. Structural, Storm Water Management practices." These would include the use of erosion and runoff control mechanisms via silt fencing around the proposed construction area and hay bale filters intercepting any runoff.
The City of La Feria would require an electrical inspection be filed via the City's building permit application prior to construction.

Per the Texas Programmatic Agreement, EERE authorizes its applicants to initiate SHPO consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2 (c) (4). The City of La Feria has initiated consultation with the Texas Historical Commission.

After review of the USFWS list of species, the proposed project is not located in an area where threatened and endangered species are known to occur.

Based on this information, DOE has determined the installation of the 135 kW, ground-mounted PV array is consistent with activities identified in CX 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 10.18.2011

DOE Funding: $900,000
Total Project Cost: $1,089,000

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 10/18/11
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