PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Vermont dept. of Education **STATE:** VT

PROJECT TITLE : Sustainable Energy for Vermont Schools

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
2010 CDP	DE-EE0000385	GFO-09-139-001	EE385

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.

Rational for determination:

The Vermont Department of Education proposes to use federal funds to install 5kW solar photovoltaic systems at 10 school sites throughout the state. Funds will primarily be used at each school location for the site feasibility and design process, and installtion of the PV system on the school building. The purpose of this project is to have these small-scale PV projects become the center of some K-12 cross curriculum modules at these schools, provide teacher professional development, and workforce development initiatives.

TheState Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be coordinated with by all selected schools to determine if any adverse affects to historic properties are present. This NEPA determination applies to installations on schools that have completed the SHPO review. It does not apply to schools that are still pending SHPO review and approval.

There would be no or negligible impacts to biological resources and land uses.

Based on the information above, this project is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX B.5.1, Actions to Conserve Energy and A9, Information Dissemination.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:
Installation of Solar Equipment on the following Schools until a SHPO review has been completed:
1. Bellows Free Academy on 71 South Main, St, St. Albans, VT, 05478
2. Sustainability Academy at Lawrence Barnes, 123 North Street, Burlington, VT, 05401
3. Woodstock Union Middle/High School, 496 Woodstock Rd, Woodstock, VT, 05091

This restriction does not preclude you from:
Siting, staging, and installing solar equipment on other school facilities which have met with the SHPO and have/can provide evidence of a completed SHPO review.
If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
When the SHPO review process is complete for the remaining schools, the recipient shall submit an additional EF-1 including the details for those projects.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kristin Kerwin Date: 8/24/2010
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