PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Township of Branchburg; NJ **STATE:** NJ

PROJECT TITLE: Energy Audit; Efficiency Improvements; and Renewable Energy Installations; Township of Branchburg; NJ

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-EE0003094	GFO-0003094-003	GO3094

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 or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

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.

B5.23 Electric vehicle charging stations The installation, modification, operation, and removal of electric vehicle charging stations, using commercially available technology, within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions are limited to areas where access and parking are 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 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funds to the Township of Branchburg, New Jersey to install, operate and maintain an additional electric charging station, purchase an additional electric vehicle and install a 50 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) carport.

Previous NEPA determinations GFO-0003094-001, signed 12/7/2012, and GFO-0003094-002, signed 7/27/2011, both CX B5.1, reviewed the proposed purchase of two electric vehicles and the installation of two electric charging stations, located at 1077 US Route 202 North, Branchburg, New Jersey 08876.

This NEPA determination applies to the proposed installation of a 50 kW solar carport, one additional electric vehicle (EV) charging station and one additional plug-in electric vehicle.

The proposed carport would measure 100 ft. long, 40 ft. wide and 18 ft. high and would be mounted on four, 9 ft. by 9 ft. concrete foundations. There would be approximately 70 ft. of trenching for electrical wires required at a depth of 3 ft. The proposed carport would be 1000 ft. from the previously approved and completed 280 kW solar array.

A 50 kW solar PV array would be installed on the roof of the carport. The PV dimensions would measure 64.6 ft. long, 39.1 ft. wide and 1.8 ft. high. The PV array would partially cover the proposed carport. It would be grid-tied to the existing electrical system, which is approximately 15 ft. from the main power supply. The PV array would be net-metering and used to offset the Township of Branchburg Department of Public Works, Health and Recreation Annex building's energy costs.

The charging station would be installed within an existing parking lot next to the Annex building. Approximately 55ft. of trenching would be required to connect the electric supply lines from the building to the EV charging station.

The purchase of the additional electric vehicle would result in reduced fossil fuel use, decrease in carbon emissions and increased efficiency in municipal fleets.

The proposed project would be installed at a previously disturbed site. Erosion and waste stream plans are in place for the proposed site work. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website identifies the Indiana bat and Bog turtle as endangered or threatened species within Somerset County, New Jersey. DOE has determined that these species would not be affected because the proposed project would occur on previously disturbed property. The proposed scope of work would not have adverse effects on wetlands, floodplains, or cultural resources, as these resources are not known to occur at the proposed site.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the installation of a solar PV carport, an EV charging station and the purchase of an electric vehicle would not have significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that the work outlined is consistent with the actions identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1 "actions to conserve energy," B5.16 "solar photovoltaic systems," and B5.23 "electrical vehicle charging station," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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 :

Kelly Daigle 9/19/2012

DOE Share: $1,000,000
Cost Share: $1,007,468
Total Project Cost: $2,007,468

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 9/19/2012
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 :