

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: City of St. Petersburg/Attn: JON PLUMB

STATE: FL

**PROJECT  
TITLE :** Solar Parks Project

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
CDP	DE-EE0000284	GFO-0000284-005	GO

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:

<b>B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems</b>	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.
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**Rational for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to install photovoltaic (PV) systems at the City of St. Petersburg Park System for use as a public education and outreach project. DOE funding would be used to install an off-grid, solar PV system serving a restroom building at Maximo Park.

DOE made previous NEPA determinations, GFO-10-070 (CX B5.1 4/28/2010), GFO-0000284-002 (CX A9, B3.1 1/12/2011), GFO-0000284-003 (CX B5.16 5/31/2012), GFO-0000284-004 (CX B5.1 7/17/2012) which included the design, installation and operation of PV systems on existing roof structures at several City park sites. This NEPA determination applies to the installation of an off-grid PV system at an additional location.

An off-grid, 470 Watts solar PV system would be installed as the sole source of electricity available to serve the electrical demand of a previously planned, soon to be constructed restroom building. The building would be located at the Maximo Park Boat Ramp, at Maximo Park, St Petersburg, Florida 33715. The system would consist of PV panels, inverter, charge controller, absorbed glass mat lead acid batteries and associated electrical distribution. The restroom building would be a precast concrete modular structure, approximately 16 ft. long by 8 ft. wide. The building would accommodate the PV panels mounted on the roof's southern exposure. The inverter, charge controller and batteries would be located in an equipment space within the restroom building.

The restroom building location is presently not served by public utilities. The City originally planned to bring electrical utilities to the building. The proposed addition of grant funding to this project would enable the installation of an off-grid solar PV system to power the building. This would eliminate the need to bring in electrical utilities and further reduce the impact of the building to the site.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website identifies nine (9) endangered or threatened species within Pinellas County, Florida: Wood Stork, Florida Scrub-Jay, Florida Golden Aster, West Indian Manatee, Hawksbill Sea Turtle, Leatherback Sea Turtle, Green Sea Turtle, Eastern Indigo Snake and the Gopher tortoise. DOE has determined that these species would not be affected due to the small scope of roof work and occurrence on previously disturbed property.

The proposed location lies between two archeological sites, the Maximo Beach Archeological Site and the Frenchman's Creek Archeological Site. While the location is designated as a Preservation area, the proposed location falls outside of the two archeological resource areas. The installation of the PV system would not have an adverse effect to the cultural resources in the area. The proposed scope of work would not have adverse effects on wetlands or floodplains, 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 the installation of the roof mounted PV system at Maximo Park 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 B5.16, "solar photovoltaic systems" 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 11/9/2012

DOE Share: \$2,427,250

Total Project Cost: \$2,427,250

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray / *Lori Gray*  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/9/2012

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_