U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Program or Field Office: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

Project Title: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Renewable Energy Solar Demonstration (Medical Clinic)

Location: Washington

Proposed Action or Project Description: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: ☒

A recent solar electric analysis performed in early June has suggested that the Tribe could reduce its energy reliance by as much as 14.1% by installing an 18.5 kW photovoltaic system. The project visualized in this EECBG Activity would test the validity of that number by installing a partial system of 4.03 kW solar power array. This demonstration system is estimated to offset approximately 3% of the annual electric usage for the Medical Clinic and would become a component of a future larger system. The demonstration solar power array would be connected to a micro-inverter that continuously monitors itself and the performance of the associated PV module. The micro-inverter would display real-time information relating to actual electricity production and would be coupled with an informational kiosk that gives viewers a sense of the importance of ending our reliance on fossil fuels. Data collected through the micro-inverter would also be routed directly to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's web site to be viewed by interested members of the public. Collected and recorded data would be periodically communicated to the Tribal Buildings and Facilities Committee to keep Tribal leaders apprized of status of the demonstration project.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

X - B3.6 Siting/construction/operation/decommissioning of facilities for bench-scale research, conventional laboratory operations, small-scale research and development and pilot projects

X - B5.1 Actions to conserve energy

*-For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR10 21 Click Here

This action would not: threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Mary Martin Date Determined: Nov 19, 2009

Comments: Webmaster: Billie Newland Digitally signed by Billie Newland DN: cn=Billie Newland, o=Energy Enterprise Solutions, ou, email=Billie.Newland@hq.doe.gov, c=US Date: 2009.11.20 12:55:34 -05'00'

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