

**NEPA Determination for the
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
Application submitted by the Chippewa Tribe of MN on behalf of the Leech Lake Band
Residential and Commercial Building Energy Audits**

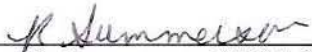
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, appropriates funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) to issue/award formula-based grants to states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. DOE's authorization for this program is set forth in Title V, Subtitle E, of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. This CX determination is applicable to DOE elements reviewing and awarding formula-based and competitive grants under the EECBG Program, and includes, but is not limited to, EECBG Program activities under the purview of DOE-HQ Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, DOE Golden Field Office, and the DOE Oak Ridge Office. Residential and commercial building energy audits would be conducted by various states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes.

The Leech Lake Band would conduct energy audits on 30 tribal housing units to complete an initial evaluation for the appropriateness of retrofitting the units to with Solar Powered Furnaces. The audits would also be an integral part of initiating a comprehensive Band-wide Energy Strategy. EECBG funds would be utilized to purchase auditing equipment and underwrite the travel, salary, and fringe of tribal energy auditors.

The application submitted and the technical review for this proposal do not reveal any extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211. The proposed residential energy efficiency and conservation audits funded by this grant would not result in an adverse effect to historic properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), would not impact sensitive resources [e.g., threatened and endangered (T/E) species, wetlands and floodplains].

A9 and B5.1 are the applicable CXs that cover the proposed action in the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix A and Appendix B.

Based on my review of the above description, I have determined that the above actions are categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation. The DOE Contracting Officer Representative is responsible for oversight of the application of this determination.



Jane R. Summerson, NEPA Compliance Officer



Date