

**NEPA Determination for the
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
Application submitted by Seneca Nation of NY
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies**

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. Development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation strategies would be conducted by various states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes.

The proposed action would involve establishing the necessary organizational capacity within the Tribe led by the Seneca Nation of Indians Community, Planning and Development Department and supported by outside technical consultants who specialize in assisting tribes with energy-related program formation. Technical consultants would support efforts to establish internal capacity needed to establish program formation functions. Tribal members would work side-by-side with consultants to build capacity to run an energy efficiency program. The team members would include the Tribe's policy, housing, transportation, economic development, facilities, and employment offices. The team would work together and coordinate the following activities over the period of 6 months: Set goals, provide initial forum for organizational coordination on energy efficiency and conservation efforts, energy job creation and job retention, lowering energy costs for the Tribe, through review of energy bills and prioritizing energy consuming spaces for energy audits that would determine energy and conservations measures that are consistent with the Tribes environmental policies, identify partnerships with other tribes, non-profits, government agencies, utilities, and regional businesses, and identification of opportunities for community education and conservation programs.

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 development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation strategies 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].

A1, A9 and A11 are the applicable CXs that cover the proposed action in the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix A.

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.



Mary E. Marin, NNSA HQ NEPA Compliance Officer



Date