



Office of Environmental Management

U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: USDA Helibase Storage and Administrative Site

Program or Field Office: Savannah River Site

Location(s) (City/County/State): Aiken/Aiken County/South Carolina

Proposed Action Description:

This project consists of four coordinated activities to improve, maintain, and support operational readiness at the Forest Service Helibase (FS-SR-Helibase). Work includes site grading, installation of aggregate surfacing, minor structural placement, utility installation, and removal of an existing temporary structure.

Project 1: Site Preparation and Temporary Facility Placement

1.1 Soil Scraping and Grading

- Scrape and remove no more than 4" inches of topsoil from the designated helibase storage area and road entrance behind Building 760-31G.
- Grade the area to establish a level surface suitable for equipment, storage, and vehicle access.

1.2 Gravel Placement

- 1.2.1 Place 1/4" - 3/4" gravel within the scraped area to an average depth of up to 2 inches.
- 1.2.2 Estimated gravel quantity: 30.9 cubic yards (approximately 41.7 tons).
- 1.2.3 Compact and level gravel to provide a stable and uniform surface.

1.3 Retaining Border Installation

- 1.3.1 Install one tier of railroad ties around the perimeter where additional stabilization is required.
- 1.3.2 Use railroad ties to retain gravel and support leveling along sloped borders, with fill depth potentially exceeding 6 inches above existing topsoil where necessary.

1.4 Temporary Structure Placement

- 1.4.1 Position a 40' x 10' temporary shipping container structure within the prepared area.
- 1.4.2 Structure will function as a combined storage and office space to support aviation operations at Helispot FS-SR-Helibase.

Project 2: Removal of Existing Temporary Building

- 2.1 Remove the current unnumbered temporary structure from the FS-SR-Helibase site.
- 2.2 Existing structure consists of wood framing and sheet metal materials.
- 2.3 Dispose of or relocate materials in accordance with Forest Service requirements and applicable environmental or waste handling procedures.

Project 3: Utility Installation

- 3.1 Install electrical power service to the newly placed temporary shipping-container facility.
- 3.2 Power line installation may be conducted via overhead pole-to-pole extension or underground routing, depending on site conditions and final engineering decisions.
- 3.3 Ensure compliance with electrical codes, safety standards, and Forest Service infrastructure specifications.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.15 SUPPORT BUILDINGS

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☒ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds,

or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1))* , is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

*In accordance with Executive Order 14154, effective April 11, 2025, CEQ has removed the regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508). DOE will continue to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.) and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021).

Based on my review of the proposed action, 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:

Date Determined:

Comments: EEC No: FS-G-2026-00003 Rev No: 0