



Office of Environmental Management U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning of Soil Liner/Cap Test Pad at Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant 451.1a-098

Program or Field Office: Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (PPPO)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Kevil/McCracken/Kentucky

Proposed Action Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to construct, operate, and decommission a temporary compacted soil liner/cap test pad, which will include a soil borrow area, within the industrialized area at the Paducah Site located near Kevil in McCracken County, Kentucky. The temporary facility will evaluate the hydraulic conductivity and compaction characteristics of candidate soil sources to support the engineering design of a potential future on-site waste disposal facility (OSWDF). Constructing and testing the mock-up test pad is the most cost-effective and technically sound solution to define final construction specifications and qualify material borrow sources prior to full-scale landfill cell construction.

Categorical Exclusions Applied:

B1.11, B1.13, B1.33, B3.6, B3.11, B6.2

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.11 – Fencing

B1.13 – Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines

B1.3 – Routine maintenance

B1.33 – Stormwater runoff control

B3.6 - Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR Part 1021.102: (see full text in regulation)

☒ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in B to 10 CFR Part 1021. The classes of actions listed below include the following conditions as integral elements of the classes of actions. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, 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, 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, Appendix B.

☒ There is no extraordinary circumstance related to the proposal that is likely to cause a reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effect or for which DOE does not know the environmental effect. Extraordinary circumstances are unique situations presented by specific proposals, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. However, segmentation does not include proposals that are developed and potentially implemented over multiple phases where each phase results in a decision whether to proceed to the subsequent phase.

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: **RYAN CALLIHAN**

Digitally signed by RYAN CALLIHAN
Date: 2026.08.21 09:05:22 -04'00'

Date Determined: