NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination for Nonproliferation and Verification Research and Development Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0000365 (Nuclear Science and Security Consortium)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA), Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, Office of Nonproliferation and Verification Research and Development (DNN R&D) has the responsibility to improve national capabilities to detect indicators associated with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). DNN R&D applies the unique skills and capabilities of the NNSA and DOE national laboratories and facilities to meet the nonproliferation research and development (R&D) requirements necessary to close nonproliferation technology gaps identified through close interaction with other U.S. government agencies and in support of US government policy. DNN R&D develops the tools, technologies, techniques, and expertise to address the most challenging problems related to detection, localization, and analysis of the global proliferation of WMD with special emphasis on nuclear weapon technology and the diversion of special nuclear materials. DNN R&D sponsors research and development across all disciplines of nuclear science and security where there is synergy with the nonproliferation mission; the Nuclear Science and Security Consortium (NSSC) is one such program. The objective of the NSSC is to increase the participation of academia in DNN R&D programs thereby broadening DNN R&D's base, diversifying the types of organizations working on its programs, and developing and preparing professionals in the field of nuclear security.

This program supports training and research in the following topic areas:

- Nuclear instrumentation and detector technology;
- Nuclear physics;
- Nuclear chemistry/radiochemistry;
- Nuclear security-related aspects of nuclear engineering; and
- Nuclear weapons and nuclear energy policy.

The application packages submitted in response to funding opportunity number DE-FOA-0000365 and the technical reviews for these research proposals prepared for the NSSC did not reveal any extraordinary related circumstances that might affect the significance of the environmental effects of these proposals. The proposed activities are not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and are not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211. The proposals do not result in adverse effects to historic properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and would not impact sensitive resources (e.g., threatened and endangered (T/E) species, wetlands and floodplains). Nor do these proposed activities threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators and facilities for treating wastewater, surface water, and groundwater; or disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum and natural gas products excluded from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Accordingly, and pursuant to the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures at 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix A and Appendix B, the categorical exclusion (CX) determination applies to the following proposals submitted in response to the solicitation for applications issued by the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Proposed Project Title	Institution
Nuclear Science and Security Consortium (SUCCESS PIPELINE NSSC)	UC-Berkeley
Nuclear Science and Security Consortium (SUCCESS PIPELINE NSSC)	University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Nuclear Science and Security Consortium	Washington University
Nuclear Science and Security Consortium (SUCCESS PIPELINE NSSC)	UC-Irvine
Nuclear Science and Security Consortium (SUCCESS PIPELINE NSSC)	Michigan State University
Nuclear Science and Security Consortium (SUCCESS PIPELINE NSSC), Nuclear Security International Policy and Nuclear Security Program	UC-San Diego
Nuclear Science and Security Consortium (SUCCESS PIPELINE NSSC)	UC-Davis

Based on my review, I have determined that the proposed actions are categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

A 9, A 11 and B 3.6 are the applicable CXs in the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix A and Appendix B that cover the proposed actions.

Mary E. Martin 5/9/2011

Mary E. Martin, NNSA HQ NEPA Compliance Officer Date