U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Site Characterization, Monitoring, and General Research Activities for Pantex Plant for FY2014

Program or Field Office: NNSA Production Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Pantex Plant, Amarillo, Carson, Texas

Proposed Action Description:

This NEPA document would be considered an “umbrella” document for Pantex Plant projects pertaining to site characterization, monitoring, and general research. The activities would be conducted in accordance with guidance from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Additional NEPA documentation, providing greater project detail, would be submitted for individual projects and would be tiered from the appropriate NEPA Review Form.

The scope of this umbrella document would cover onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

• Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, and radar), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, including the establishment of survey marks;
• Installation and operation of field instruments, such as stream gauging stations or flow measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools;

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.1 - Site characterization and environmental monitoring

B3.3 - Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources

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

B3.8 - Outdoor terrestrial ecological and environmental research

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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), 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: James Barrows

Digitally signed by James Barrows
DN: c=us, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Energy, ou=Pantex Plant, ou=NNSA Site Office, serialNumber=jbarrows, cn=James Barrows
Date: 2013.09.26 08:49:11 -05'00'

Date Determined: September 26, 2013