U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Lease Extension for the Operation of a Telecommunications Tower at Los Alamos Laboratory

Program or Field Office: Los Alamos Field Office (DOE/NNSA)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Los Alamos, NM

Proposed Action Description:

The proposed action is to renew an existing lease with SBA Structures, Inc. to operate and maintain telecommunications equipment (wireless, cellular, and/or radio services) at a tower located at the intersection of State Road 4 and Pajarito Road. Prior NEPA includes an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared in February of 2000, "Environmental Assessment for Leasing Land for the Siting, Construction and Operation of a Commercial Radio Antenna at Los Alamos National Laboratory (DOE-EA-1332)" for which a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed on February 16, 2000, by the DOE Los Alamos Site Manager. The radio frequencies used by modern cell towers range from 750 to 2690 MHz whereas those analyzed in the EA (DOE-EA-1332) ranged from 890 to 1490 MHz. Telecommunications devices and equipment are regulated by the FCC and considered safe, thus electromagnetic radiation exposure from the tower is not a human health issue. There would be no change in visual impacts which were deemed insignificant in the EA. The leased property consists of 2.34 acres and is not within the habitat for any listed threatened and endangered species. The proposed action would not affect historical or cultural resources. There are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action however, if changes are made to the scope, so that it is no longer bound by the action described, or is expanded to encompass other actions, NEPA requirements for the action must be reassessed and further analysis may be required. See LAN-15-01 for additional information.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.19 - Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

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: KAREN ODEN Digitally signed by KAREN ODEN DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Energy, cn=KAREN ODEN, 0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=89001002890442 Date: 2015.02.09 16:59:16 -07'00' Date Determined: 02/09/2015