

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

SECTION A. Project Title: Mobile Manipulation and Survey System for H-Canyon and Other Applications Across the DOE Complex – University of Texas

SECTION B. Project Description

The University of Texas, in collaboration with the University of Florida, Florida International University, AREVA, and Savannah River National Laboratory, proposes to develop a hybrid mobile platform capable of maneuvering using wheels, treads or articulated legs to perform inspections and collect data in the H-Canyon air tunnel at the Savannah River Site.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact

Radioactive Material Use – Closed, sealed radioactive sources will be used. Handling these relatively small activity sealed sources, such as Cs-137, Co-60, Am-241, etc. in the nanoCurrie – microCurrie range, will be in accordance with approved procedures at the Nuclear Engineering Teaching lab. The University of Texas has procedures in place to handle any waste that will be generated through this project. The action would not create additional environmental impacts above those already permitted at the university.

SECTION D. Determine the Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s): Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

Note: For Categorical Exclusions (CXs) the proposed action must not: 1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE orders; 2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; 3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; 4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist which would affect the significance of the action, and the action is not “connected” nor “related” (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and (2), respectively) to other actions with potentially or cumulatively significant impacts.

References: B3.6 Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for small-scale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial development.

Justification: The activity consists of small-scale research and development aimed at producing a hybrid mobile platform to perform inspections of the air tunnel of H-Canyon.

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) Yes No

Approved by Jack Depperschmidt, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on 07/21/2016