



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Colorado State University - Test Facility and Proving Ground for ARPA-E MONITOR

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Fort Collins, CO

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support activities to design, construct, and operate a natural gas testing facility to provide realistic emissions dispersion and measurement setting for MONITOR technologies.

The facility will be constructed on a property owned by Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. The facility incorporates production pads with uniquely configurable emission release points that represent typical equipment configurations, emission release point locations, and emission rates seen in both dry and wet gas fields. The facility will utilize mock-ups of onsite equipment to support rapid re-configuration and precise control of emission locations and rates. Additional emission release points will be located around the perimeter of the facility to simulate background emissions.

The project team will comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations and incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices in all project activities. Colorado State University is required, under the terms of its ARPA-E Cooperative Agreement, to secure all necessary permits prior to initiating field testing and to provide ARPA-E with written assurances of acquiring such permits prior to facility construction and testing. Facility construction and testing may only proceed after an amended NEPA determination is issued by ARPA-E.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

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 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:

Date Determined: 09/21/2016

(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)