



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: NA-19-0007

Proposed Action Title: Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program (MSIPP) Awards, FY 2019 - FY 2021

Program or Field Office: NNSA/Office of Management and Budget, NA-MB

Location(s) (City/County/State): Various locations

Proposed Action Description:

The Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program (MSIPP) within the Department of Energy's (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Office of Science, Academic Alliances and Partnerships subprogram, funds academic programs to develop NNSA's next-generation technical workforce. MSIPP is designed to increase participation of minorities across the nation in STEM disciplines. MSIPP supports MSI efforts including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

The location of the facilities selected for the MSIPP program awards would generally be any accredited MSI of higher education in any State, Federal District, or Territory of the U.S. MSIs must be recognized by the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education, and identified on the OCR's Department of Education U.S. accredited postsecondary minorities institution list. Research would be conducted in existing facilities in one or more of the following topical areas: advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, energy systems integration, nuclear security, biological sciences (except medicine and other clinical fields), physical sciences (including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and materials science), mathematical sciences, computer and information sciences, nuclear sciences and engineering, engineering, and technology areas associated with the preceding disciplines.

MSIPP awards are primarily used for: student internships, capacity building for participating universities (lab equipment, increased research), faculty development (faculty sabbaticals at national lab partner facilities, faculty release time), K-12 programs (creation of new and advancement of current K-12 programs directly linked to MSIPP consortiums), and training and development activities for students from undergraduate to Ph.D.

More specifically, the financial assistance may be used for travel, fringe and indirect costs, supplies and materials, equipment, user fees, publication costs, tuition, stipends and salaries to support staff, undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral students, research professors, their principle investigator(s) and other universities' support (collaborators). Awards may be used to cover costs associated with minor equipment modifications, upgrades, and/or purchases.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A 9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination
 - B 1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment
 - B 3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects
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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 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 of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

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 information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under NNSA NAP 451.1 and DOE P 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action and that other-regulatory requirements set forth above are met. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.