



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Project Title: Herbicide Application to SCE&G 115- and 230-kV Electricity Transmission Lines on Savannah River Site

Program or Field Office: Savannah River Site

Location(s) (City/County/State): Aiken/Aiken/South Carolina

Proposed Action or Project Description:

"South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) proposes to use land-based spot application of a herbicide mix on selected 115-kV and 230-kV electricity transmission lines on SRS (see attached spray map). Broadcast application of herbicide was used as recently as 2015 on SCE&G electricity transmission lines at SRS. These applications have been made by walking/driving the rights-of-way and using spot treatment techniques to eradicate unwanted vegetation, or vegetation was controlled by mechanical means (mowing). This is the process that will be used. The spot application is subject to the restrictions specified in the attached ""Functional Service Agreement (FSA) between Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) and SCE&G for Infrastructure Services"" (G-FSP-G-0058, rev. 1/FSA #00058), and will be in accordance with the attached 2018 scope of work. FSA #00058 specifies that there will be no herbicide application 1) adjacent to Research Set-Aside Areas, 2) in wetlands, Carolina bays, streams, and other water bodies, 3) to erosive slopes, 4) to areas containing rare, threatened, or endangered plants and animals, and 5) within 100 feet of wells or closed waste units; and 200 feet of waste sites in the assessment phase (these distances are flexible dependent upon type and location of waste sites). Coordinates for spray exclusion zones will be provided to SCE&G by SRNS. Exclusion zone maps and a table of exclusion zone coordinates are attached to this EEC. Herbicide application using backpack sprayers may be permissible in the exclusion zones, and typically is preferred by SRNS and SREL over mechanical vegetation control, with some exceptions. SRNS-ACP will determine if herbicide application can occur in the vicinity of waste units and land use control areas identified as exclusion zones. A review of

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

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](#).

- ☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- ☒ This 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 § 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.
- ☒ All of the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021 would be met. This proposal would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; 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; 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; have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021; 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.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning 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: **Tracy L. Williams** Digitally signed by Tracy L. Williams
Date: 2020.07.06 17:37:37 -04'00'

Date Determined: 06/30/2020

Comments: DOE-G-2018-0005, Rev. 1