U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Operations Technical Development -- Testing and Technical Specifications Panel ("TTSP")

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Des Plaines, IL

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support the project team's small-scale research and development activities to provide technical advice to awardees of the ARPA-E "Rapid Encapsulation of Pipelines Avoiding Intensive Replacement ("REPAIR")" program. REPAIR project teams will develop the test protocols and performance targets for "pipe in pipe" rehabilitation of gas distribution mains; materials and robotic tools to deposit and inspect the coatings; and mapping tools and software to create 3-D maps of gas pipes and adjacent underground infrastructure. Specifically, the TTSP will solicit input from key REPAIR stakeholders-regulators, utilities, and Codes and Standards organizations. Additionally, the TTSP will (1) hold quarterly meetings, (2) publish meeting notes, and (3) solicit the expertise of consultants for particular areas of interest during the course of the program. In short, the TTSP will advise REPAIR awardees on safety and regulatory issues related to REPAIR technology developments throughout the duration of the program.

Project activities will be conducted at existing facilities at Operations Technology Development (Des Plaines, IL) and Gas Technology Institute (Des Plaines, IL) designed for the applicable activities. The proposed project activities under this award are limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities. The project team will not conduct physical experiments, prototype fabrication, demonstration projects, or similar activities under this award.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

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: Geoffrey Goode Digitally signed by Geoffrey Goode Date: 2020.07.15 04:55:15 -05'00' Date Determined:

(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)