



Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Replacement of Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) in 234-7H

Program or Field Office: Savannah River Site

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

Proposed Action Description:

The JEOL JSM-6480LV SEM, along with all peripheral attachments, are to be removed and replaced by a new SEM and its needed peripheral attachments; i.e. - pump, and transformer. The new SEM, with needed attachments and accessories, will fit into the existing laboratory floor space and will be placed in approximation to the current SEM's location. The existing HVAC exhaust system (with minimal reconfiguration) and instrument air supply lines to 234-7H will be utilized for the new SEM. A new SEM would be a vast technological advancement over the current SEM. Hardware and software would be supported, and replacement parts would be readily available. Given the progression of the Design Agency surveillance requirements, additional capabilities compared to current SEM capabilities will likely be required. The replacement SEM would provide these capabilities.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.31 INSTALLATION OR RELOCATION OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

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, 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: 10/24/2024

Comments: EEC No: OBU-H-2021-0049 Rev No: 1