

Sitewide Categorical Exclusion for Siting, Construction and Operation of Support Buildings and Support Structures

Introduction

As defined in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Operations Office Integrated Management System Procedure, *NEPA Analysis at Hanford*, a sitewide categorical exclusion is:

An application of DOE categorical exclusions described in 10 CFR 1021, Appendices A and B, which may apply to Hanford Site proposed actions (activities) that are "sitewide" in nature and extent, which the cognizant DOE Hanford NCO has determined fit within the scope (i.e., same nature and intent, and of the same or lesser scope) of DOE categorical exclusions described in 10 CFR 1021 Appendices A and B. The cognizant DOE Hanford NCO may issue specific sitewide categorical exclusions for use on proposed actions in which separate DOE approval to proceed is not required.

The nature of the proposed action subject of this sitewide categorical exclusion, as well as guidance to implement this exclusion as described herein, may be revised to reflect contemporary experience from the application of this exclusion; changes to, or development of, relevant policy and guidance; and changes to DOE's categorical exclusions resulting from future rulemakings.

Proposed Action

The DOE's Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection propose to site, construct and operate small-scale support buildings and support structures, and undertake small-scale modifications of existing buildings and structures.

Location of Action

On and near the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington

Description of Proposed Action

DOE's proposed action is to site, construct and operate small-scale support buildings and support structures, and undertake small-scale modifications of existing buildings and structures. Such activities would occur within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active site utilities and roads are readily accessible). Buildings, for purposes of this sitewide categorical exclusion, include permanent, as well as temporary structures such as mobile offices and trailers.

New buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings) would be sited, constructed (or modified), and operated to accommodate demand for office purposes; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; employee health services or recreation activities; storage of supplies and equipment; security (including security posts); fire protection; and similar support purposes. Potential activities necessary to support use of these structures may include construction of small septic tank systems for waste discharge, and construction of parking lots and walkways to accommodate access to these buildings and support structures.

The implementation of these proposed activities may generate materials and incidental quantities of solid, hazardous, radioactive, polychlorinated biphenyl and/or asbestos wastes. Consistent with DOE's procedures that implement NEPA (10 CFR 1021), DOE would undertake actions foreseeably necessary to implement this proposed action, and therefore would manage these wastes in compliance with DOE orders, and Federal, and state regulations and guidelines. Wastes would be packaged, staged for transport, transported, and disposed of at onsite or offsite facilities. Incidental materials, such as excess communication cable or electrical wire, may be recycled, reused or disposed of.

In addition, DOE would move equipment and materials necessary to implement the proposed action onto and within the Hanford Site, as necessary. Use of the equipment and associated vehicles would generate air pollutants from combustion and limited ground-disturbance, local noise levels would increase, water may be used for dust suppression, and nonrenewable resources such as petroleum products would be consumed. In all instances, the demand for resources and environmental impacts resulting from implementation of these proposed activities would be small and temporary in nature.

Applicable Categorical Exclusion

DOE's Categorical Exclusion B1.15:

Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings), within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; employee health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (including security posts); fire protection; and similar support purposes, but excluding facilities for waste storage activities, except as provided in other parts of this appendix.

Implementing Guidance

This sitewide categorical exclusion may be applied to activities under the proposed actions that are “sitewide” in nature and extent. For example, this exclusion may be implemented as a one-time yearly application in instances where the proposed action would involve the modification of heating, ventilation and air condition systems in multiple buildings or structures on or near the Hanford Site. This exclusion may not be applied to routine maintenance actions, which are defined as those actions necessary to maintain and preserve buildings, structures, infrastructure, and equipment in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designated purpose; maintenance also includes replacement-in-kind, which would allow the replacement of outdated technology with more modern technology.¹

Application of this sitewide categorical exclusion requires compliance with the Richland Integrated Management System Procedure, *NEPA Analysis at Hanford*. Sitewide categorical exclusions are determined solely by the cognizant DOE Hanford NCO and are applied through a screening process which documents that the proposed action:

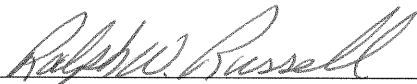
1. Fits within the scope of actions identified in a DOE Hanford NCO-approved sitewide categorical exclusion
2. Meets the eligibility requirements for Appendix B categorical exclusion (“integral elements”) of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B(1) through B(4)
3. Is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (see 40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)) or with cumulatively significant impacts (see 40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2))
4. Is absent extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action
5. Is not located on nor directly impacts the Hanford Reach National Monument, Rattlesnake Mountain, Gable Mountain, Gable Butte, within ¼ mile of the Columbia River, other known Traditional Cultural Properties, or properties of historic, archaeological or architectural significance designated by Federal, state or local governments or properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and
6. Is not located on nor cause direct impacts to sensitive species or their habitats, such as old-growth sagebrush.

This sitewide categorical exclusion may not be applied to proposed actions that involve the construction of larger-scale, complex buildings or structures, or involve construction or expansion of waste disposal, recovery or treatment facilities. It also may not be applied at locations in which previously undisturbed land would be occupied by construction equipment or temporary structures, that is, it may only be applied contiguous to an already developed area (where site utilities and roads are readily accessible).

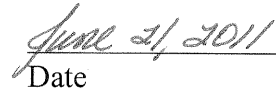
¹ Routine maintenance is addressed in *Sitewide Categorical Exclusion for Routine Maintenance Services*.

Compliance Action

I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for Categorical Exclusion B1.15 and that there are no extraordinary circumstance related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not “connected” to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211. All activities to be conducted under this Sitewide Categorical Exclusion Determination must be documented with the NEPA Review Screening Form (see Hanford Site Form RL-721) pursuant to *NEPA Analysis at Hanford* and demonstrably meet the criteria described in 1 through 6 above. Accordingly, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation. This exclusion is being implemented as a one-time yearly application for the proposed action described herein.



Ralph W. Russell, DOE NEPA Compliance Officer



Date