



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Installation of an Interim Ventilation System to support recovery activities at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Program or Field Office: Carlsbad Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Carlsbad/Eddy/New Mexico

Proposed Action Description:

The proposed action is to install an upgrade to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant ventilation exhaust system. In order to recover from the radiation event and to enhance worker safety and to continue to protect human health and the environment, an upgrade to the WIPP underground (U/G) ventilation system is proposed to increase the ventilation flow rate to the WIPP underground facilities. The proposed Interim Ventilation System would add two additional fans to the existing High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtration system to increase the ventilation flow rate to the underground. Currently, air from the underground is moved by existing fans capable of a ventilation flow rate of 60,000 cubic feet per minute (cfm). The proposed installation will add two additional fans to augment the flow rate of filtered ventilation air by 54,000 cfm to achieve a total ventilation flow of 114,000 cfm. Exhaust air will continue to exit the system through the HEPA filter system, and will continue to be sampled for radioactive particulates prior to release to the accessible environment.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B2.5 - Facility safety and environmental improvements

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: **Susan E. McCauslin**

Digitally signed by Susan E. McCauslin
DN: cn=susan.e.mccauslin, o=U.S. Department of Energy, ou=Energy IT
Services, ou=Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, ou=People, cn=Susan E. McCauslin
Date: 2014.11.18 07:40:19 -0700

Date Determined: 11/17/2014