



# Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



**Project Title:** Cloud Radar, Balloon Launcher, Data System, Utility, and Road Upgrades for ARM Climate Research Facility in Barrow

**Program or Program Office:** Sandia Site Office

**Location:** Barrow Alaska

**Project Description:**

Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico (SNL/NM) Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Climate Research Facility (ACRF) Program, proposes to perform instrument upgrades or additions at the DOE ACRF at Barrow, Alaska. Two of these additions would require pilings or significant modification to an existing structure. The electrical utility supply for the site has been marginal for many years and would be upgraded to improve reliability. The road to the site would also be improved. Activities at this ARM site include the collection and analysis of atmospheric data through the use of Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) and other equipment. Additional details on the Barrow site can be viewed at: <http://www.arm.gov/sites/nsa/barrow.stm>.

### General Administration/Management

- A1 - Routine business actions
- A2 - Administrative contract amendments
- A4 - Interpretations/rulings for existing regulations
- A5 - Regulatory interpretations without environmental effect
- A6 - Procedural rulemakings upgrade
- A7 - Transfer of property, use unchanged
- A8 - Award of technical support/M&O/personal service contracts
- A9 - Info gathering, analysis, documentation, dissemination, and training
- A10 - Reports on non-DOE legislation
- A11 - Technical advice and planning assistance construction/operation/decommissioning
- A12 - Emergency Preparedness planning well
- A13 - Procedural Orders, Notices, and Guidelines
- A14 - Approval of technical exchange arrangements
- A15 - International umbrella agreements for energy R&D

### Facility Operations

- B1.2 - Training exercises and simulation
- B1.3 - Routine maintenance and custodial services
- B1.4 - Air conditioning installation for existing equipment
- B1.5 - Cooling water system improvements in existing structures
- B1.6 - Installation of runoff/spill control retention tanks and basins
- B1.7 - Communication system and data processing equipment acquisition, installation, operation, removal
- B1.8 - Screened water intake/outflow structure mods, within permits
- B1.11 - Fence installation, no adverse effect on wildlife or water flow
- B1.12 - Detonation/burning of failed/damaged high explosives or propellants in designated areas, within permits
- B1.13 - On-site pathway or short access road construction/acquisition
- B1.15 - Support building or structure, non-waste storage, const/oper
- B1.16 - Removal of asbestos in accordance with regulations
- B1.17 - Removal of PCB items from aboveground structures
- B1.18 - Water supply well const/oper, from existing field, no degradation
- B1.21 - Noise abatement
- B1.22 - Building relocation to developed area/demolition/disposal
- B1.23 - Demolition/disposal of buildings, equipment, and structures
- B1.24 - Transfer, disposition, or acquisition of uncontaminated structures or equipment, environmental quality maintained
- B1.25 - Transfer, disposition, or acquisition of uncontaminated land for habitat preservation/wildlife management
- B1.26 - Small (<250,000 GPD) WWT facility const/oper/decom
- B1.27 - Disconnection of utilities
- B1.28 - Placement of unused facilities in environmentally safe condition
- B1.29 - Small on-site const/demolition waste disposal facility const/oper/decom
- B1.30 - Transfer/transportation actions, quantities incidental to amounts at receiving site
- B1.31 - Relocation/operation of machinery or equipment, similar use
- B1.32 - Traffic flow adjustments, existing roads.

### Health and Safety

- B2.1 - Modifications to enhance workplace habitability
- B2.2 - Installation/improvement of building/equipment instrumentation
- B2.3 - Installation of equipment for personnel safety and health
- B2.5 - Facility safety and environmental improvements, replacement or of facility components

### General Research

- B3.1 - Site characterization/environmental monitoring
- B3.3 - Research related to conservation of fish and wildlife
- B3.4 - Transport packaging tests for radioactive/hazardous material
- B3.6 - R&D or pilot facility
- B3.7 - New infill exploratory, experimental oil/gas/geothermal construction/operation
- B3.8 - Outdoor ecological/environmental research in small area
- B3.9 - Certain CCT demonstration activities, emissions unchanged
- B3.11 - Outdoor tests, experiments on materials and equipment components, no source, special nuclear, or by-product materials

### Conservation, Fossil, and Renewable Energy Activities

- B5.1 - Actions to conserve energy, no indoor air quality degradation
- B5.2 - Modification to oil/gas/geothermal pumps and piping, no flow changes, or air emission effects
- B5.3 - Modification (not expansion)/abandonment of oil storage access/ brine injection/gas/geothermal wells; no site closure
- B5.4 - Repair/replacement of pipeline sections within maintenance provisions of a Section 404 permit
- B5.5 - Short crude oil/gas/steam/geothermal pipeline const/oper within a single industrial complex/existing right-of-way
- B5.6 - Oil spill cleanup operations
- B5.12 - Workover of existing oil, gas, geothermal wells to restore production

### Environmental Restoration/Waste Minimization

- B6.1 - Cleanup actions: small-scale, short-term (< \$5MM and 5 years)
- B6.2 - Siting/construction/operation of temporary pilot-scale waste collection/treatment/stabilization/containment facilities
- B6.3 - Environmental control system improvements in existing structures, recycle/release/disposal within permitted facility
- B6.4 - Packaged hazardous waste storage facility const/oper/decom
- B6.5 - Const/oper/decom of on-site facility for characterizing/sorting or over packing previously packaged waste (not high-level or spent nuclear fuel; no unpacking)
- B6.6 - Modification of facility for storing, packaging, or repacking waste (not high-level or spent nuclear fuel)
- B6.8 - Minor operational changes to minimize waste or reuse materials
- B6.9 - Small-scale, temporary measures to reduce contaminated GW migration
- B6.10 - Upgraded waste storage facility (<50,000 ft) for existing waste const/oper/decom

### Other

- Specify category:

\*-For a Detailed Listing of DOE's Appendix A/B Subpart D of 1021 [Click Here](#)

This action would not (1) violate applicable ES&H requirements, (2) require siting of waste Treatment, Storage, Disposal or Recovery facilities, (3) disturb hazardous substances (excluding naturally occurring petroleum and natural gas), thus producing uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, and (4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Furthermore, this action (1) would not present any extraordinary circumstances such that the action might have a significant impact upon the human environment, (2) is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, and (3) is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts. Therefore, the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further review.

NEPA Compliance Officer or Program Officer:

This NEPA Determination was made by Susan Lacy  
NEPA Compliance Officer for the Sandia Site Office  
on the date specified

Date Determined: Dec 30, 2009

Comments:

SNA09-0400

and CX B 4.13 Reconstruction and

minor relocation of existing electric power lines approximately 20 miles in length or less.