



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Pantex Site Office
P. O. Box 30030
Amarillo, TX 79120



NEPA Compliance Officer Rationale

Pantex Site Office

Proj. No.: D&D-10-002-C

NEPA ID No.: PXP-10-0004

Deactivation & Decommissioning of the North Compost Tent

Application of DOE NEPA Procedure: Categorical Exclusion B1.23, Applicable to Facility Operations (10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B), applies to the proposed activity.

Rationale: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), proposes to demolish Environmental Restoration's (ER) North Compost Tent, which was damaged by a storm in 2003 and has not been fully operational since then. It is considered unsalvageable by the Facility & Systems Design Department. Demolition will consist of:

- Removal of clay soil (approximately 1 foot deep) and two liners (polyvinylchloride and high density polyethylene) and disposal at the ER landfill cell, which is located 700 feet from the project site.
- Approximately 36 concrete piles (3 feet deep) as well as anchor bolts that were used to support the trusses would also be disposed of in the ER landfill cell.
- Recycling of materials would be the responsibility of the subcontractor as well as transportation of all waste generated, excluding Class I or hazardous waste.
- Once the clay soil and liners have been removed, the site would be backfilled and the surface brought to grade. It is anticipated that 400 cubic yards of backfill material would be required. The subcontractor may obtain fill material from an on-site borrow pit, located 1.5 miles from the project site.

More in-depth discussions can be found in Pantex NEPA review form PXP-10-0004, which is hereby incorporated by reference. Categorical Exclusion B1.23 applies in cases of:

Demolition and subsequent disposal of buildings, equipment, and support structures (including, but not limited to, smoke stacks and parking lot surfaces)

The proposed demolition fits within the parameters of Categorical Exclusion B1.23.

Based upon the information in the NEPA review form referenced above, discussion with the project specialists, and my knowledge, this demolition proposal as described does not present any extraordinary circumstances of a unique or uncertain nature.¹

Supported by the information provided by the project specialists and my knowledge of this activity, the proposal would not²:

1. threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/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;
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; or
4. adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)).

Therefore, this proposal meets the conditions that are integral elements of the class of actions in Appendix B, and application of Categorical Exclusion B1.23 is appropriate.

If changes are made to the project scope, or if the scope is expanded to encompass other actions, NEPA requirements will need to be reassessed at that time.

Signature: 

Jim Barrows

Title: NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 22 April 2010

¹ See 10 CFR § 1021.410(b)(2)and(3)for full text of regulation.

² See 10 CFR Part 1021 Subpart D Appendix B (B(1)through(4)).