

**SECTION A. Project Title: Infrastructure and Reactor Upgrade Support to Universities****SECTION B. Project Description**

All of the equipment and instrumentation within the scope of these solicitations support existing research and educational activities.

General Infrastructure Support - DE-FOA-0000321

DOE asked for applications for equipment and instrumentation infrastructure to support university nuclear energy-related engineering and science teaching and research laboratories. Infrastructure is defined as equipment and instrumentation that supports Nuclear Scientific & Engineering Research & Development (NS&E R&D) and education programs at U.S. universities and colleges.

All equipment and instrumentation requests support NS&E R&D or education. This includes, but is not limited to, equipment and instrumentation for research reactors, other specialized NS&E facilities, classrooms and laboratories, and non-reactor NS&E research.

Major/Minor Reactor Upgrades – DE-FOA-0000322

These applications are for the purchase of equipment and instrumentation related to the performance, control or operational capabilities of reactors or associated facilities; for radiation detection and measurement in laboratories directly related to the reactor facility; for security enhancements; or licensing renewal support required

**SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact**

The actions consist of funding the purchase of equipment and instruments for existing programs. Those actions would not create additional environmental impacts above those already occurring at those universities.

**SECTION D. Determine the Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s):** Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

Note: For Categorical Exclusions (CXs) the proposed action must not: 1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE orders; 2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; 3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; 4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist which would affect the significance of the action, and the action is not “connected” nor “related” (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and (2), respectively) to other actions with potentially or cumulatively significant impacts.

References: B1.7 Acquisition, installation, operation, and removal of communications systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment. B3.6 Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects (generally less than two years); and small-scale pilot projects conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

## DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Justification: The proposed action is to acquire, install, and operate equipment and instruments for use in supporting existing research and development activities at various universities.

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)  Yes  No

Approved by Jack Depperschmidt, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on 8/4/10