



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.: MWO-11-004-C
NEPA ID No.: PXP-11-0001
Parking Lot South of Building 16-35

Application of DOE NEPA Procedure: Categorical Exclusion B1.15, Applicable to Facility Operations (10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B), applies to this proposal. Therefore, neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary for the activity described in NEPA Review Form (NRF) PXP-11-0001, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Rationale: The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, proposes to construct a permanent parking lot south of Building 16-35 on the Pantex Plant. The parking lot would be approximately 220 feet in length and 170 feet wide. Four metal culverts, 24 inches in diameter by 22 feet long, would be installed in the ditch at the entrance to the parking lot for maintaining proper drainage. The ground would be leveled, and 6 to 8 inches of half-inch diameter rock, or flyash, would be used as the base. Approximately 1,000 tons of crushed asphalt would be installed over the rock base. Approximately 200 gallons of emulsion (oil and water) and a 1-inch thick layer of small gravel would be applied on top of the crushed asphalt. The parking area perimeter would be lined with railroad ties.

Construction of the parking lot south of Building 16-35 fits within the parameters of Categorical Exclusion B1.15:

“Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings and support structures 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 ...”

Based upon the information in PXP-11-0001, this proposal to construct a parking lot south of Building 16-35 does not present any extraordinary circumstances of a unique or uncertain nature. It is not connected to other actions with potentially or cumulatively significant impacts¹. It 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;

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)).

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 the integral elements of the classes of actions to which application of Categorical Exclusion B1.15 is appropriate.

If changes are made to the scope of action as described in the NRF, or if the scope is expanded to encompass other actions, NEPA requirements for the action will need to be reassessed at that time.

Signature: 

Jim Barrows

Title: NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2 February 2011