



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.: LIN-11-001-C
NEPA ID No.: PXP-11-0002
HPFL Tank & Pump Replacement

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-11-0002, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Rationale: The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, proposes to construct and operate two new high pressure fire loop (HPFL) pump houses and tank facilities at the B&W Pantex Facility to replace aging existing facilities. Construction and staging areas would require approximately one acre of land disturbance for each facility.

Each of the two above ground water storage tanks would have a capacity of 428,000 gallons and would require cathodic protection. The tanks would be 60-ft. diameter glass-encapsulated steel, installed on 16-in. thick concrete slab foundations with 36-in. thick perimeter footings. A 15-ft. wide x 6-in. deep gravel apron would be installed around the perimeter of each tank. The associated pump house facilities would be 46-ft. x 22-ft. concrete masonry unit buildings constructed on 6-in. thick concrete slabs with 30-inch thick perimeter footings. A 10-ft. x 20-ft. concrete pad would be installed between the tank and associated pump house.

New 750 KVA (kilovolt amperes) transformers would be installed near each location to provide the electrical needs of the new pump houses. The size of the concrete transformer pads would be dependent on the brand of transformers purchased. If oil-filled transformers are used, proper secondary containment would be provided.

At one site, there would be the replacement of 330-ft. of old fence with 130-ft of new fence and replacement of approximately 5,200 sq. ft. of existing gravel and asphalt roadway with approximately 11,500 sq. ft. of new asphalt access driveway and parking lot. There would be about 700 linear feet of trenching for underground electrical and communication cable installation.

At the other site, approximately 8,500 sq. ft. of new asphalt access driveway and parking lot and 3,800 sq. ft. of gravel, 6-inches deep, would be installed. There would also be about 350 linear feet of trenching for underground electrical cable.

Construction and operation of two new HPFL pump houses and tank facilities at the B&W Pantex Facility to replace aging existing facilities 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 ...; security (including security posts); fire protection”

Based upon the information in PXP-11-0002, this proposal to construct and operate new HPFL pump houses and tank facilities to replace aging existing facilities 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;
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: 26 April 2011

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)).