

Sitewide Categorical Exclusion for Actions to Conserve Energy

Introduction

As defined in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Operations Office Integrated Management System Procedure, *NEPA Analysis at Hanford*, a sitewide categorical exclusion is:

An application of DOE categorical exclusions described in 10 CFR 1021, Appendices A and B, which may apply to Hanford Site proposed actions (activities) that are “sitewide” in nature and extent, which the cognizant DOE Hanford NCO has determined fit within the scope (i.e., same nature and intent, and of the same or lesser scope) of DOE categorical exclusions described in 10 CFR 1021 Appendices A and B. The cognizant DOE Hanford NCO may issue specific sitewide categorical exclusions for use on proposed actions in which separate DOE approval to proceed is not required.

The nature of the proposed action subject of this sitewide categorical exclusion, as well as guidance to implement this exclusion as described herein, may be revised to reflect contemporary experience from the application of this exclusion; changes to, or development of, relevant policy and guidance; and changes to DOE's categorical exclusions resulting from future rulemakings.

Proposed Action

The DOE's Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection propose to undertake or demonstrate potential energy or water conservation actions at locations on and nearby the Hanford Site.

Location of Action

On and near the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington.

Description of Proposed Action

DOE's proposed action is to undertake actions that would conserve energy at locations on and off the Hanford Site. Under the proposed action, DOE would (1) conduct research and develop pilot projects in fundamental scientific and engineering disciplines that support energy conservation and renewable energy goals, (2) develop improved tools, devices, meters, fuel cells, and other components and systems related to energy conservation and energy processes, and (3) implement actions to conserve energy. As part of this proposed action, DOE also would consult with, and award grants and contracts to individuals, organizations, and state and local governments.

Research and development activities would include, but not be limited to:

- Providing support for the introduction of energy-efficient, convenient, and high-quality appliances and materials into the residential and commercial building market
- Providing support for the development of buyer consortiums and partnerships to take advantage of the energy and water conservation opportunities provided by major end-users of building equipment
- Providing technical assistance to market transformation programs
- Developing specifications, instrumentation, detectors and monitoring systems for energy-efficient products
- Installing metering equipment and data loggers for collection of data
- Developing advanced monitoring, analysis, and control technologies for power systems
- Characterizing energy system performance, particularly for energy conversion and usage systems and technology (including delivery, control, and management), and
- Designing and developing systems to automate the monitoring, analysis, diagnosis and control of energy production, conversion, and end-use systems.

In addition, DOE would implement actions to conserve energy, including but not limited to:

- Replacing and/or adding more efficient materials, equipment or control systems
- Installing heat recovery and re-use systems, and
- Installing more efficient lighting and heating systems
- Efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation.

The implementation of these proposed activities may generate small quantities of solid, hazardous, radioactive, polychlorinated biphenyl and/or asbestos wastes. Consistent with DOE's procedures that implement NEPA (10 CFR 1021), DOE would undertake actions foreseeably necessary to implement this proposed action, and therefore would manage these wastes in compliance with DOE orders, and Federal, state and local regulations and guidelines. Wastes would be packaged, staged for transport, transported, and disposed of at onsite or offsite facilities.

In addition, DOE would move equipment and materials necessary to undertaken research and development activities, and to conserve energy onto and within the Hanford Site, as necessary. These actions also may require temporary rerouting, isolation and/or disconnection of utilities. Use of the equipment and associated vehicles would generate air pollutants from combustion and limited ground-disturbance, local noise levels would increase, water may be used for dust suppression, and nonrenewable resources such as petroleum products would be consumed. In all instances, the demand for resources and environmental impacts resulting from implementation of these proposed activities would be small and temporary in nature.

Applicable Categorical Exclusion

DOE's Categorical Exclusion (B5.1):

Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

Implementing Guidance

This sitewide categorical exclusion may be applied to activities under the proposed actions to conserve energy that are “sitewide” in nature and extent. For example, this exclusion may be implemented as a one-time yearly application in instances where the proposed action would involve the replacement of energy generators with higher efficiency energy generators.

Application of this sitewide categorical exclusion requires compliance with the Richland Integrated Management System Procedure, *NEPA Analysis at Hanford*. Sitewide categorical exclusions are determined solely by the cognizant DOE Hanford NCO and are applied through a screening process which documents that the proposed action:

1. Fits within the scope of actions identified in a DOE Hanford NCO-approved sitewide categorical exclusion
2. Meets the eligibility requirements for Appendix B categorical exclusion (“integral elements”) of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B(1) through B(4)
3. Is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (see 40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)) or with cumulatively significant impacts (see 40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2))
4. Is absent extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action
5. Is not located on nor directly impacts the Hanford Reach National Monument, Rattlesnake Mountain, Gable Mountain, Gable Butte, within ¼ mile of the Columbia River, other known Traditional Cultural Properties, or properties of historic, archaeological or architectural significance designated by Federal, state or local

B5.1 Actions to Conserve Energy – Revision 0

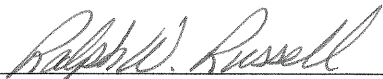
governments or properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and

6. Is not located on nor cause direct impacts to sensitive species or their habitats, such as old-growth sagebrush.

This sitewide categorical exclusion may not be applied to proposed actions that would involve the construction of new buildings or structures, or to actions that would require renovations or modifications to existing buildings and structures, unless such modifications would be incidental to the tests or experiments (for example, equipment change out, modified electrical service). It also may not be applied to actions that would increase indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances.

Compliance Action

I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for Categorical Exclusion B5.1 and that there are no extraordinary circumstance related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not “connected” to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211. All activities to be conducted under this Sitewide Categorical Exclusion Determination must be documented with the NEPA Review Screening Form (see Hanford Site Form RL-721) pursuant to *NEPA Analysis at Hanford* and demonstrably meet the criteria described in 1 through 6 above. Accordingly, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation. This exclusion is being implemented as a one-time yearly application for the proposed action described herein.



Ralph W. Russell, DOE NEPA Compliance Officer



Date