



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION FOR REMOVING ITEMS OR MATERIALS CONTAINING POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs) (CX-GEN-002)

Program or Field Office: Oak Ridge Office, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Location(s) (City/County/State): Oak Ridge, TN; Berkeley, CA; Menlo Park, CA; Newport News, VA; and other DOE-operated facilities and ancillary areas associated with these sites, programs, and projects

Proposed Action Description:

The proposed actions would involve removal of items containing various levels of PCBs, including transformers, capacitors, light ballasts, hydraulic systems, gaskets, coatings, and insulation. The proposed actions also include routine maintenance and flushing of equipment such as hydraulic systems and transformers. Other routine operations, such as PCB spill response and cleanup, would also be performed. The PCB spill cleanup may include establishment of storage areas to temporarily contain the wastes until the items can be relocated to existing treatment, disposal, or one-year storage facilities.

Removal of these items might require temporary removal of obstacles such as walls, ceilings, fences, or power lines which would prevent forklift or crane access to items targeted for removal. Some transformers may have connecting cables which contain asbestos and lead. These cables would be removed and/or disposed of in existing permitted/approved facilities. Some transformers, hydraulic systems, or other items may have PCB-containing pads and/or soil around the base. The surrounding substrate would be sampled and, if determined to contain PCBs, excavated or managed according to applicable Environmental Protection Agency regulations, DOE orders, and applicable programs or site-specific policies and procedures. The removed equipment would be stored until approved for release to an off-site contractor for disposal or recycling in accordance with regulations, applicable programs, or site-specific policies and plans.

When performing removal actions of large items, such items would be drained of free-flowing liquid, thereby reducing the risk of spill. Small-volume items would be drained if necessary. Other items, such as light ballasts, are sealed and would not require draining. If size permits, the items would also be placed in a Department of Transportation-approved container to further minimize spill potential. Following characterization, all wastes determined to be of or derived from a PCB concentration of 50 ppm or greater would be managed in accordance with the terms outlined for PCB waste found at 40 CFR 761 and, for activities taking place on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR), in the ORR PCB Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement, as well as any other applicable agreements or policies.

The proposed PCB removal actions that would take place on the ORR have been reviewed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) or applicable sections in a ratified Programmatic Agreement document and would not result in an adverse effect to historic properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). If the proposed ORR actions would have an adverse effect on properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register, DOE would consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and initiate actions specified in procedures set forth in the Advisory Council's regulations in 36 CFR Part 800.

For sites other than the ORR, DOE would follow the Section 106 process and would consult with the respective SHPO, as appropriate.

To ensure that sensitive resources are protected, existing maps and surveys/studies on threatened and endangered species, wetlands and floodplains, and historically sensitive areas would be used to locate these areas. In addition, personnel responsible for identifying these resources would be consulted and, if warranted, additional surveys and walkovers would be conducted to confirm or update available information.

No known extraordinary circumstances would be associated with these actions that might affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action based on past similar actions. These actions would not be connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts or related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts; they would meet the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions which may be categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. Should the action not meet the conditions for CX consideration, a separate NEPA document would be prepared and submitted to DOE-ORO for review and approval.

Although an action may fall under the category of a "PCB removal action," a separate NEPA review would be performed and documented should the action or related/cumulative effect of the action have the potential to result in an unusual or significant impact to the environment.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.17 - Polychlorinated biphenyl removal

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE 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 or facilities; (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; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: _____ /s/ _____ Date Determined: _____ 11/19/2012 _____