



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION FOR PERSONNEL SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS (CX-GEN-007)

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 installation, modification, and/or upgrading of personnel safety systems and devices including, but not limited to, safety showers; eye washes; fume hoods; radiation monitoring devices; sprinkler systems; emergency exit lighting systems; emergency ingress/egress routes; protective equipment for electrical panels; circuit breakers and electrical switch gear; personnel accountability/assembly systems and stations; improvements to walking and working areas and/or surfaces; and fabrication, installation, or modification of platforms, rails, stairways, shields, and guards.

Upgrades and/or installations might be performed to meet compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health standards, National Fire Protection Association standards, and other agency standards for worker protection.

Installations and modifications would include all necessary electrical and utility connections. Where appropriate, containment diking would be provided around shower and sprinkler systems.

Any wastes generated during personnel safety enhancements would be appropriately characterized and then disposed of in existing facilities. The proposed action would be evaluated before implementation to identify options to reduce or eliminate generation of waste materials.

The proposed personnel safety enhancement actions that would take place on the Oak Ridge Reservation (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.

Should the proposed personnel safety enhancement actions involve ground disturbances at locations where an archeological survey had not been conducted or take place at previously disturbed locations where the potential exists to exceed the depth of previous ground disturbances, DOE would consult with the SHPO to determine whether an archeological survey is warranted prior to initiating the proposed actions.

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 might fall under the category of "personnel safety enhancements," 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.

