



# U.S. Department of Energy

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

**Proposed Action Title:** CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION FOR COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTING, AND DATA PROCESSING ACTIVITIES (CX-GEN-005)

**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, upgrade, and/or enhancement of communications and computer systems, including telephone systems, computers and computer networks, and public address/warning systems. These actions might involve (1) project design, (2) procurement, and (3) installation of communications systems or system components. Installation might include installing aboveground and belowground conduits, cable trays, support poles, manholes, and hub stations that contain distribution panels, wiring, electronics, power supplies, coaxial and fiber optics cables, and miscellaneous tie-ins to existing systems such as the Broadband Communication Network, bar code readers, badge readers, electronic message signs, computer systems, or public address/warning systems. Actions might also include connection of remote equipment, tools, or terminals to a host computer and connection of new network systems designed to automate process controls and enhance graphics and imaging systems or enhance data collection, processing, storage, and retrieval systems. When no longer useful, buried communications and data transfer cable would either be removed from service or abandoned in place.

Acquisition and installation of communications systems and data processing equipment would involve either replacement of parts (to the extent that the replacement is in kind) or acquisition and installation of new system components. New system installation actions would generate minimal amounts of construction wastes, which would be disposed of at existing permitted/approved waste disposal sites. Old equipment/components would either be salvaged or disposed of at existing permitted/approved waste storage, treatment, or disposal facilities. The proposed action would be evaluated before implementation to identify options to reduce or eliminate generation of waste materials.

Installation of communications systems across (belowground) creeks and streams would be reviewed to determine if a Corps of Engineers or an Aquatic Resources Alterations Permit would be required. Requirements of 10 CFR 1022 would be met should wetlands or floodplains be involved in the action, and a rare plant/animal survey would be completed prior to installation actions in these areas.

The proposed communication 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 communications 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 would be 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.

