



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



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NEPA ID#: OPD 14-015

Proposed Action Title: Proliferation Detection Program Financial Assistance to a Consortium for Verification Technology

Program or Field Office: Office of Proliferation Detection (NA-221)

Location(s) (City/County/State): University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Proposed Action Description:

This funding opportunity is related to announcement # DE-FOA-0000892. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) proposes to provide financial assistance over a period of [5] years [using FY14 monies] to University of Michigan for scientific research related to the Proliferation Detection Program in the [topical area] of: consortium for verification technology (CVT). The consortium would consist of thirteen universities and eight national laboratories with the prime being the University of Michigan. The consortium would undertake (laboratory operations) (conduct experiments) (fabrication of hardware) focusing on six thrust areas: (i) treaty verification: characterizing existing gaps and emerging challenges, (ii) fundamental data and techniques, (iii) advanced safeguards tools for accessible facilities, (iv) detection of undeclared activities and inaccessible facilities, (v) disarmament verification, and (vi) education and outreach. Activities will be conducted in existing facilities using existing scientific equipment at their Institutions, at eight NNSA Laboratories and at the other thirteen collaborating Institutions.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A1 - Routine DOE business actions
- A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination
- B3.6 - Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects
- B1.2 - Training exercises and simulations

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 information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning 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 and that other regulatory requirements set forth above are met. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.

NEPA Compliance Officer: J. F. Robbins

Date Determined: 03/31/2014