



# National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 16-001  
GRANT #: DE-NA0002956

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Proposed Action Title:

Center for Laser Experimental Astrophysics Research (CLEAR)

Program or Field Office: APM

Location(s) (City/County/State): University of Michigan

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Proposed Action Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) proposes to provide financial assistance to *The University of Michigan* for scientific research related to the Center for Laser Experimental Astrophysics Research (CLEAR). The University proposes to continue to study dynamics induced by radiation, shock waves, and supersonic flows, of relevance to the formation of structure in the Universe, and in the process to continue to produce a steady pipeline of Ph.D. students of interest to the NNSA Laboratories. CLEAR would continue to work on laser facilities, which may include Omega, the National Ignition Facility, and possibly other facilities. The experiments would use radiography, spectroscopy, and imaging.

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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

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

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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 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.