



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Lightning Mapping Array Project – Amend. 03

Program or Field Office: NNSA Production Office (Pantex)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Amarillo, Carson, Texas

Proposed Action Description:

The original NEPA document for the Lightning Mapping Array (LMA) project addressed the installation of eight sensors, on tripods, to detect the electrical activity in the area surrounding the Pantex Plant. The first amendment addressed the addition of a third site on Texas Tech property as well as sensors to be located at the NIRP (Nuclear Incident Response Program) near the Amarillo Rick Husband International Airport. The second amendment addressed the installation of containment boxes for the 12-volt batteries associated with each solar-powered sensor. This third amendment addresses the deletion of two previously identified locations and adding one location. The new location would be approximately 75 feet away from one monitoring well, which is an Ogallala Monitoring well. The monitoring well has been plugged and abandoned. Because this project involves outdoor work, there is a possibility for the discovery of nests of protected migratory birds. At Pantex, nests are commonly found on buildings, fences, and other structures, as well as in more traditional circumstances such as in trees, shrubs, on the ground in gravel areas, and between grass clumps. The Pantex Environmental Compliance Department's Natural Resource Coordinator would be contacted if the nest of any bird were encountered prior to or during the proposed project. With the exception of feral pigeons, house sparrows, Eurasian collared doves, and European starlings, all birds and their nests are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and/or state regulations. Nests of protected species cannot be disturbed. Refer to WI 02.01.04.02.21. Scheduling of projects for outside the March – August nesting season would minimize chances for encountering nests of protected migratory birds. Also, any Texas Horned Lizards encountered at the site would be moved away (moved no further than a few feet beyond the boundary of the project site)

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.1 - Site characterization and environmental monitoring

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: **Jack Zanger**

Digitally signed by Jack Zanger
DN: cn=Jack Zanger, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Energy, email=jz.zanger@hq.doe.gov
Date: 2016.06.29.08:58:10-0500

Date Determined: 06/29/2016