



**PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY**

**Plasma Physics Laboratory**  
James Forrestal Campus  
P.O. Box 451  
Princeton, New Jersey 08543

January 26, 2017

Mr. Peter Johnson, Manager  
Princeton Site Office  
U. S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 102  
Princeton, New Jersey 08542-0102

Dear Mr. Johnson:

**SUBJECT:** Re-transmittal of Proposed NEPA Determination – D-Site  
Decommissioning and Repair of Groundwater Monitoring Wells

I am resubmitting to you a proposed NEPA determination for a proposed action for the Decommissioning and Repair of Groundwater Monitoring Wells at D-Site. I am recommending that this proposed action be classified as a Categorical Exclusion (CX) under Subpart D, Appendix B, Section B3.1 of 10 CFR 1021. Information on this proposed action, including an Environmental Evaluation Notification Form (EENF), is attached. The initial submittal included a wetlands assessment that, upon further evaluation against 10CFR1022.5(d), was determined to be unnecessary as Subpart B of 10CFR1022 is not applicable to this action. This determination was agreed to during a January 19, 2017 teleconference involving Mr. Michael McCann (DOE-UC), Mr. Peter Siebach (DOE-UC), Ms. Sandy Rogan (DOE-PSO), Mr. Tracy Estes (DOE-PSO), Ms. Leanna Meyer (PPPL), Ms. Dorothy Strauss (PPPL), and myself.

Sincerely,

Jerry D. Levine  
Head, Environment, Safety & Health  
NEPA Compliance Manager

JDL

Attachments

cc: T. Brog  
L. Dudek  
T. Estes  
L. Meyer  
S. Rogan  
R. Sheneman  
D. Strauss  
S. Zelick

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION NOTIFICATION FORM

Grantee/Contractor Laboratory: Princeton University/Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL)

Project/Activity Title: D-Site Decommissioning & Repair of Groundwater Monitoring Wells

CH NEPA Tracking No.:

Type of Funding SC

B&R Code:

Total Estimated Cost: ~\$30K

DOE Cognizant Secretarial Officer (CSO): Ms. Cherry Murray

Contractor Project Manager: -----

Signature: -----

Date:

Contractor NEPA Reviewer: Jerry D. Levine

Signature: 

Date: 1/26/17

I. **Description of Proposed Action:** A New Jersey licensed well drilling subcontractor would properly seal and decommission six (6) ground water monitoring wells. These wells were installed some years ago for various environmental investigations on D-Site and are no longer required. Repairs would also be made to one (1) existing monitoring well that is still in use. These wells are located on D-Site adjacent to the Liquid Effluent Collection (LEC) tanks, and one (1) well is located in the wetlands adjacent to the D-Site access road. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Bureau of Land Use Regulation has verified PPPL does not require a NJDEP wetlands permit for the well located in the wetlands, as existing vegetation in the wetlands or the wetlands transition zone would not be removed or disturbed. A PPPL digging permit would be obtained from the Facilities Division for well repair. PPPL flame permits would be obtained from the Emergency Services Unit, part of the Site Protection Division, for removing metal well casings for well closure.

II. **Description of Affected Environment:** Work would take place on the D-Site grounds (see attached map, Figure 1). No environmentally sensitive resources would be affected.

PPPL is located on Princeton University's James Forrestal Campus in Plainsboro Township, Middlesex County (central New Jersey), adjacent to the municipalities of Princeton, Kingston, East and West Windsor, and Cranbury, NJ. It occupies approximately 88.5 acres in the areas known as "C- and D-Sites." PPPL has operated on the current site since 1959. The closest urban centers are New Brunswick, 14 miles (22.5 km) to the northeast, and Trenton, 12 miles (19 km) to the southwest. Within a 50-mile (80 km) radius are the major urban centers of New York City, Philadelphia, and Newark. Princeton University's main campus is approximately three miles west of the site, primarily located within the borough of Princeton.

The estimated resident population within 10 miles (16 km) of PPPL is approximately 500,000. The total estimated population within a 50-mile radius (80km) of PPPL is approximately 17,735,164.

Surrounding the site are lands of preserved and undisturbed areas including upland forest, wetlands, open grassy areas, and a minor stream, Bee Brook, which flows along PPPL's eastern boundary. These areas are designated as open space in the James Forrestal Campus



- |     |                                                                                                                              |         |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 15. | Noise (in excess of regulations)                                                                                             | 15. No  |
| 16. | Asbestos Removal                                                                                                             | 16. No  |
| 17. | PCBs                                                                                                                         | 17. No  |
| 18. | Import, Manufacture or Processing of Toxic Substances                                                                        | 18. No  |
| 19. | Chemical Storage/Use                                                                                                         | 19. Yes |
|     | <i>The six decommissioned wells would be sealed with grout. The one well being repaired may require a new cement casing.</i> |         |
| 20. | Pesticide Use                                                                                                                | 20. No  |
| 21. | Hazardous, Toxic, or Criteria Pollutant Air Emissions                                                                        | 21. No  |
| 22. | Liquid Effluent                                                                                                              | 22. No  |
| 23. | Underground Injection                                                                                                        | 23. No  |
| 24. | Hazardous Waste                                                                                                              | 24. No  |
| 25. | Underground Storage Tanks                                                                                                    | 25. No  |
| 26. | Radioactive (AEA) Mixed Waste                                                                                                | 26. No  |
| 27. | Radioactive Waste                                                                                                            | 27. No  |
| 28. | Radiation Exposures                                                                                                          | 28. No  |

**C. Other Relevant Disclosures. Will the proposed action involve the following?**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>Yes/No</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 29. A threatened violation of ES&H regulations/permit requirements                                                                                                                                                                                              | 29. No        |
| <i>One or more job hazard analyses (JHAs) would be required for these activities. The requirements of 10CFR851 (as implemented under the DOE-approved PPPL Worker Safety and Health Program) would be applied to work at PPPL under this proposed action.</i>   |               |
| 30. Siting/Construction/Major Modification of Waste Recovery, or TSD Facilities                                                                                                                                                                                 | 30. No        |
| 31. Disturbance of Pre-existing Contamination                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 31. No        |
| <i>Note: Excavations that encounter contaminated ground water require a permit.</i>                                                                                                                                                                             |               |
| 32. New or Modified Federal/State Permits                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 32. No        |
| <i>New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Bureau of Land Use Regulation has verified PPPL does not require a NJDEP Wetlands Permit as existing vegetation in the wetlands or wetlands transition zone would not be removed or disturbed.</i> |               |
| 33. Public controversy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 33. No        |
| 34. Action/involvement of Another Federal Agency (e.g. license, funding, approval)                                                                                                                                                                              | 34. No        |
| 35. Action of a State Agency in a State with NEPA-type law. (Does the State Environmental Quality Review Act Apply?)                                                                                                                                            | 35. No        |
| 36. Public Utilities/Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 36. No        |
| 37. Depletion of a Non-Renewable Resource                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 37. No        |

VI. NEPA Compliance Officer Subpart D CX Determination and Approval:

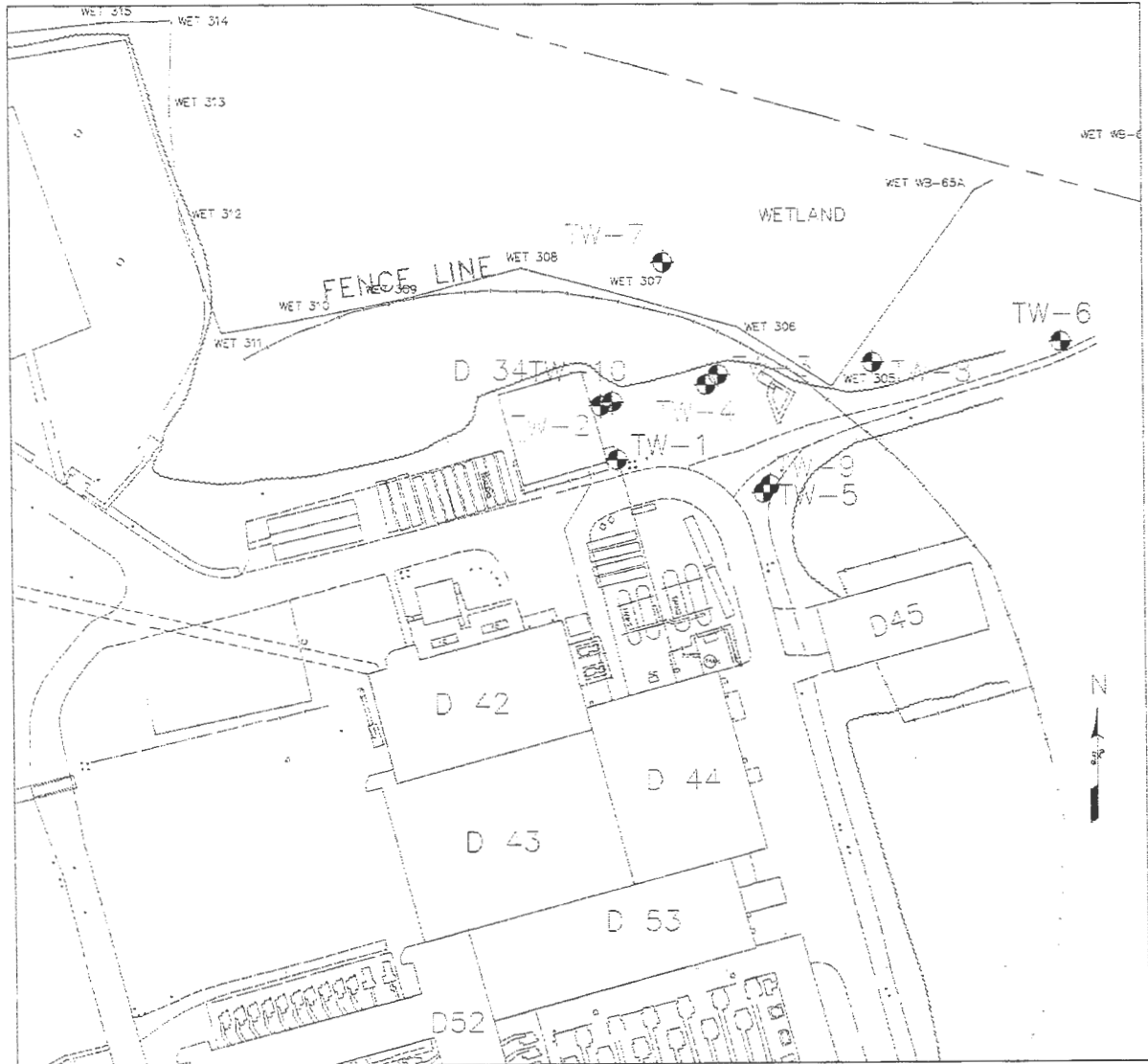
**Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.**

PSO NCO: *Peter Siebach*

Signature:



Date: *2/13/2017*



No Scale

**SITE PLAN SHOWING TW MONITORING  
WELLS DECOMMISSIONING & REPAIR**  
PLAINSBORO, NJ

PREPARED FOR  
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

Date: 10/26/2016

**D-SITE BUILDINGS**

D34 LEC Building  
 D42 MOCK-UP Building  
 D43 Test Cell  
 D44 NSTX Test Cell  
 D45 RAD Waste Storage Building  
 D52 FCPC Building  
 D53 NBPC Building

**LEGEND**

Wetlands limits as delineated by the field by  
habitat management and design inc.  
April, 2007

- ☒ Monitoring Well Remove
- ☒ Well Repair
- ☒ Retain Monitoring Well
- Boundary Line

**Notes:**