



# U.S. Department of Energy

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Project Title: Construction of ATV/UTV Trail and Stairs for Access to Steel Creek to Support Routine Sampling Events

Program or Field Office: Savannah River Site

Location(s) (City/County/State): Aiken/Aiken/South Carolina

Proposed Action or Project Description:

Access to Steel Creek to perform routine long-term sampling of surface water and shallow monitoring wells is not easily accessible. Samplers are required to carry all necessary equipment to each sample location which can result in numerous trips and increased potential for injury while accessing the sampling location. Many of the locations are not near existing secondary roads and must be traversed on foot for some distances. Steel Creek is defined by a ravine with steep cliffs, which was scoured by discharge of cooling water during reactor operations. Extreme care is required to enter the creek areas once a suitable enter point is found. To aid in providing a safe point of entry into the creek area and allow for unimpeded access to the sampling locations, three (3) areas have been identified where various types of construction will be performed with the completion of an ATV/UTV trail and two (2) stairs.

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](#).

- There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- This 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 § 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.
- All of the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021 would be met. This proposal would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; 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; 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; have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021; 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.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) 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, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **Tracy Williams** Digitally signed by Tracy Williams  
Date: 2022.04.04 09:50:15 -04'00'

Date Determined: 03/30/2022

Comments: CBU-P-2020-0022, Rev. 1