

**U.S. Department of Energy  
Naval Reactors Laboratory Field Office**

**Knolls Laboratory**

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion (CX)  
Determination Summary Form**

**KNOLLS LABORATORY WELL DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT**

**REFERENCE**

10 CFR Part 1021, Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures, Subpart D, Typical Classes of Actions, Appendix B

**PROJECT SCOPE DISCUSSION**

The Knolls Laboratory Well Decommissioning Project is being undertaken to decommission up to seventy-three (73) groundwater monitoring wells across the site that have become damaged, inactive, or otherwise obsolete monitoring locations associated with previous site characterization. The wells are grouped into two principal areas of the site: 1) the Land Disposal Area (LDA), which includes investigation wells associated with the LDA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act investigations and other site wells in what is referred to as the land area; and 2) Zone 1A and Separations Process Research Unit Area. The work will include removal and/or plugging of the wells with cement grout in accordance with applicable New York State guidance. Equipment anticipated to be used includes direct-push and hollow-stem auger drill rigs, support vehicles, and equipment such as support trucks and skid steer or front-end loader to move material as needed.

The project does not violate applicable regulatory requirements, require construction or major expansion of waste handling facilities, result in unpermitted releases of hazardous substances, or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources, including wetlands. This project does not involve genetically engineered organisms or species. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action. The project has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion and is not connected to other actions with potentially significant and/or cumulative impacts.

**CONCLUSION**

The Knolls Laboratory Well Decommissioning Project is categorically excluded from additional NEPA documentation under 10 CFR 1021 Subpart D, Appendix B, B3.1. Specifically, the categorical exclusion that applies is:


*B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring*

Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or

otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing;
- (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools);
- (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells;
- (d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing;
- (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment;
- (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes);
- (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams;
- (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources);
- (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and
- (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

NRLFO  
Approval:

  
D. A. Delwiche

Date: 12 Aug 2020  
CX Determination Date