

**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 MODULAR OFFICE BUILDING 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 purpose of the Modular Office Building (MOB) Project is to install a temporary office facility for a period of about six years to provide necessary turnaround space for other site facility renovations. The scope of the project includes geotechnical evaluation of underlying soils to support installation of building support piers, installation of a modular office building including reroute of utilities and electrical power to supply the building, and placement of soil erosion/sediment controls, as needed, during the construction.

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's Modular Office Building Project is categorically excluded from additional NEPA documentation under 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B1.7, B1.15, B1.33, and B3.1. Specifically, the categorical exclusions that apply are the following:

*B1.7 Electronic equipment*

Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.

### *B1.15 Support buildings*

Siting, construction or modification, and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated and modular buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include, but are not limited to, those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (such as security posts); fire protection; small-scale fabrication (such as machine shop activities), assembly, and testing of non-nuclear equipment or components; and similar support purposes, but exclude facilities for nuclear weapons activities and waste storage activities, such as activities covered in B1.10, B1.29, B1.35, B2.6, B6.2, B6.4, B6.5, B6.6, and B6.10 of this appendix.

### *B1.33 Stormwater runoff control*

Design, construction, and operation of control practices to reduce stormwater runoff and maintain natural hydrology. Activities include, but are not limited to, those that reduce impervious surfaces (such as vegetative practices and use of porous pavements), best management practices (such as silt fences, straw wattles, and fiber rolls), and use of green infrastructure or other low impact development practices (such as cisterns and green roofs).

### *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:



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D. A. Delwiche

Date: March 28, 2022

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CX Determination Date