

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF SCIENCE
INTEGRATED SUPPORT CENTER—CHICAGO OFFICE**

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION NOTIFICATION FORM**

To be completed by "Applicant," i.e., organization with responsibilities for a "Federal action" involving application to DOE for a permit, license, exemption or allocation, or other similar actions. For assistance with this Form, refer to "Instructions for Preparing ISC-CH F-560, Environmental Evaluation Notification Form."

Solicitation/Award No. (if applicable): DE-SC0023311

Organization Name: Clemson University

Proposed Action Title: How do wildfire severity and post-fire precipitation influence fate and transport of pyrogenic organic carbon and nitrogen in terrestrial-aquatic interfaces?

Total DOE Funding/Total Funding: \$645,719.00

I. Project Description: (Use explanation pages if additional space is required)

A. Proposed Project/Action (if applicable, delineate Federally funded/Non-Federally funded portions)

This project is a 3-year collaborative research project between USFS Savannah River Site, Clemson University, and Oak Ridge National Lab to develop a mechanistic understanding of how wildfire severity and post-fire precipitation affect the hydro-biogeochemical processes of pyrogenic organic matter (PyOM), including pyrogenic organic carbon (PyOC) and nitrogen (PyON), across terrestrial-aquatic interfaces. The project will involve prescribed burning of 10-12 small, first order watersheds (< 10 ac) after additional fuel amendments have been added. These burns will occur within larger scheduled prescribed burns in collaboration with and under the supervision of USFS Savannah River Fire Team and USFS Savannah River Research Team.

B. Would the project proceed without Federal funding? Yes No

If "yes," use explanation page.

II. Description of Affected Environment: (Use explanation pages if additional space is required)

Research will be conducted on the Savannah River Site (SRS), a DOE owned and managed facility in South Carolina. Core areas of SRS are managed by DOE and DOE-partners, while the 175,000 acre forest area is managed on behalf of DOE by the USFS for the purpose of resource management, research, and preservation. The specific areas for this research within the greater SRS area are managed upland pine forests with prescribed fire management plans.

III. Preliminary Questions:

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. <u>Is the DOE-funded work routinely administrative or <i>entirely</i> advisory or a “paper study?”</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

If “Yes”, ensure that the description in Section I reflects this and go directly to Section V.

- B. Is there any potential whatsoever for: (*Provide an explanation for each “Yes” response*)

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Work to be performed outdoors? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Major modification of a building interior? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Threat of violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Siting, construction or major expansion of waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Disturbance to hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants preexisting in the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The presence of any environmentally-sensitive resources? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Any potential whatsoever for high consequence impacts to human health or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The work being connected to another existing/proposed activity that could potentially create a significant impact? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Nearby past, present, and/or reasonably foreseeable future actions such that collectively significant impacts could result? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Scientific or public controversy, uncertainty over potential impacts, or conflicts regarding resource usage? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

If “No” to ALL Section III.B. questions, go directly to Section V.

IV. Potential Environmental Effects: (*Provide an explanation for each “Yes” response*)

- A. Environmentally Sensitive Resources: Could the proposed action potentially result in changes and/or disturbances to any of the following resources?

- | | Yes | No |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Threatened/Endangered Species and/or Critical Habitats | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Other Protected Species (e.g., Burros, Migratory Birds, Pollinators) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Sensitive Environments (e.g., Tundra/Coral Reefs/Rain Forests) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Cultural or Historic Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Important Farmland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Non-Attainment Areas for Ambient Air Quality Standards | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Class I Air Quality Control Region | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Special Sources of Groundwater (e.g. Sole Source Aquifer) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Navigable Air Space | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Coastal Zones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Areas with Special National Designation (e.g. National Forests, Parks, Trails) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Floodplains and/or Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- B. Regulated Substances/Activities: Would the proposed action involve any of the following regulated Items or activities?

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 13. Natural Resource Damage Assessments | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Invasive Species or Exotic Organisms | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Noxious Weeds | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. Clearing or Excavation greater than one acre or Removal of Trees Governed by Local Requirement | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Dredge or Fill (under Clean Water Act, Section 404, greater than one acre) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

B. Regulated Substances/Activities: Would the proposed action involve any of the following regulated Items or activities? (continued)

| | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 18. Noise (in excess of regulations) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. Asbestos Removal | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 21. Import, Manufacture, or Processing of Toxic Substances | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 22. Chemical Storage/Use | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. Pesticide Use | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 24. Hazardous, Toxic, or Criteria Pollutant Air Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 25. Liquid Effluents | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 26. Spill Prevention/Surface Water Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 27. Underground Injection | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 28. Hazardous Waste | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 29. Underground Storage Tanks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 30. Radioactive or Radioactive Mixed Waste | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 31. Radiation Exposure | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 32. Nanoscale Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 33. Genetically Engineered Microorganisms/Plants or Synthetic Biology | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 34. Ozone Depleting Substances | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 35. Greenhouse Gas Generation/Sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 36. Off-Road Vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 37. Biosafety Level 3-4 Laboratory | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 38. Research on Human Subjects or other Vertebrate Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 39. Facility footprint exceeds 5,000 Square Feet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

C. Other Relevant Information: Would the proposed action involve the following?

| | Yes | No |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 40. Disproportionate Nearby Presence of Minority and/or Low Income Populations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 41. Existing, Modified, or New Federal/State Permits | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 42. Involvement of Another Federal Agency (e.g. license/permit, funding, approval) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 43. Action in a State with NEPA-type law | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 44. Expansion of Public Utilities/Services | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 45. Depletion of a Non-Renewable Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 46. Subject to an Existing Institutional Work Planning and Control Process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 47. Other Pertinent Information Which Could Impact Human Health or the Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

V. Applicant certification that to the best of their knowledge all information provided on this form is accurate:

Does this disclosure contain: classified, sensitive business, or other exempt information that DOE would not be obligated to disclose pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. Yes No

A. Organization Official (Name and Title): Carrie Burri, Grants Administrator II

Signature: Carrie Burri Digitally signed by Carrie Burri
Date: 2022.10.19 13:16:11 -04'00' Date: _____

e-mail: cburri@clemsun.edu Phone: 864-656-3217

B. Optional Secondary Approval (Name and Title): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Remainder to be completed by DOE

VI. DOE Concurrence/Recommendation/Determination:

A. DOE Project Director/Program Manager or Contract/Grant Management Specialist:

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Yes | No |
| Has the Applicant completed this Form correctly? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does an existing generic categorical exclusion apply? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

If yes, indicate: _____

Name and Title: Daniella Duverne, Contracting Specialist

Signature: DANIELLA DUVERNE Digitally signed by DANIELLA DUVERNE
Date: 2022.11.07 13:35:23 -06'00' Date: _____

B. DOE NEPA Team Review (if requested):

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Yes | No |
| Is the class of action identified in the DOE NEPA Regulations (Appendices A-D to Subpart D (10 CFR § 1021))? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If yes, specify the class(es) of action: B3.1, B3.8

Name and Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

C. DOE Counsel (if requested):

Name and Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

D. DOE NEPA Compliance Officer:

The preceding pages are a record of documentation required under DOE Final NEPA Regulation, 10 CFR § 1021.410.

- Action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for Categorical Exclusion referenced above.
- Action requires approval by Head of the Field Organization. Recommend preparation of an Environmental Assessment.
- Action requires approval by Head of the Field Organization or a Secretarial Officer. Recommend preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Comments/limitations if any:

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Name: _____

Signature: PETER SIEBACH Digitally signed by PETER SIEBACH
Date: 2022.11.07 15:15:09 -06'00' Date: _____

Optional Additional Narrative: (add additional detail to description to Sections I and II or explanations to responses in Sections 3 and 4.

Section IV, question A.1: According to US Forest Srv -SR Sr. Natural Resource Program Manager, Red-cockaded Woodpecker (endangered) habitat is anticipated to be used for the study. However, the research will not be within any RCW clusters. The species benefits from fire and research will occur within existing prescribed fire management activity for the species. Coordination with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) researcher on-site will occur prior to conducting activities in those areas of the site.

Section IV, question C.42: The local USDA SRS Forest Service office working with Clemson still has to complete their own NEPA process per SRS site procedures. This SRS Forest Service process must be completed prior to the commencement of work. This DOE form should be attached to the Forest Service documentation.

DOE NEPA Tracking Number