



U.S. Department of Energy
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Evaluation Checklist

PPPO-F-450.1B, Rev. 3

June 2017

National Environmental Policy Act Review

Instructions:

- Submit one copy of the completed NEPA Checklist with supplemental information to the PPPO Project Coordinator.
- PPPO Project Coordinator will distribute to PPPO Program NEPA Coordinator and/or PPPO NEPA Compliance Officer (NCO) for approval.
- File the completed checklist with the project files, as appropriate.
- Completion of this checklist is not required for CERCLA actions. However, the Contractor's Project Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that a commensurate level of project detail is provided to the CERCLA Project Manager so that proper consideration and analysis of the work can be performed via the CERCLA process.

Activity title and project number (if any):

X-204 Rail Section L-8 Repair at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Piketon, Ohio

Date:

May 11, 2022

Contractor Project Contact Name:

Joe Saltsman

Telephone Number:

740-897-2961

PPPO Project Manager:

Dee Powell

Telephone Number:

740-897-5524

Forecast Activity start date:

May 26, 2022

Estimated cost:

\$8M

Activity location:PORTS/PAD Other _____ PORTS PAD

Activity description: This should be a brief but thorough description of the proposed activity. Be very specific in explaining the purpose and location (a developed/non-developed area, outside/inside/adjacent to an existing building number, etc.)

This project is needed to repair Section L-8 of the X-204 Rail system. There has been a significant land subsidence (slump) along a steep bank adjacent to the rail road tracks. (A figure showing the location of the subsidence and photos are attached.) This project is needed to repair damage to the rail and to prevent imminent loss of this section of the site rail system and potential impacts to Little Beaver Creek. This rail segment needs to be repaired to allow for safe shipment of materials from the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride project. Without the availability to ship by rail, there is additional handling of hazardous materials required which presents increased risk and safety concerns for site personnel. These shipments were scheduled to begin in June 2022 and have now been delayed.

Detailed description: (Attach additional pages for description if necessary and include references to the documents)

On April 20, 2022 site employees discovered a significant land subsidence (slump) adjacent to the X-204 Rail Section L-8. (Photos of the land subsidence are attached.) Approximately 1 acre of the hillside has slid and has undermined the stability of the rail road tracks and prevents the use of the rail. Unless action is taken soon, additional damage to the rail and land in the area will occur. This area is in the immediate vicinity of Little Beaver Creek which is at risk from being impacted by further land subsidence. The instability of the slope in this area is evidenced by a repair that was needed to a nearby portion of the rail that occurred in 2019. This repair was needed due to sliding of soil.

An engineering design is being completed which will determine the actions necessary to stabilize the hillside and restore the rail to service. This project will require removal of trees that have been impacted by the land slide to allow repairs to be completed. Only trees that propose possible safety concerns or prevent DOE from implementing the appropriate repairs will be removed.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been consulted regarding the removal of trees to make the necessary repairs. The USFWS did not object to removal of trees in the project area that represent a safety concern or prevent DOE from implementing the appropriate repairs. (See e-mail attached to this checklist).



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The area where the project will occur is in a previously disturbed and developed portion of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. No resources of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance have been identified in this area and are not believed to exist in the area where repairs will occur.

The scope of this project falls within the scope of activities listed in Categorical Exclusions 10 CFR 1021.410 Appendix B – B1.3 Routine Maintenance.

Questions to answer: *A checklist is required to be submitted, evaluated, and approved for all proposed non-CERCLA actions so that a NEPA review may be performed.	Yes	No
1. Will this activity result in a change in emissions, generation rates, or new discharge of hazardous, mixed, radioactive, asbestos, PCB, sanitary/industrial, solid or liquid waste, petroleum substance, wastewater, or any other pollutants from a facility or process?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Will this activity be located in a previously developed area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Will this activity involve siting, construction, modification, renovation, closure, or shut-down of facilities or processes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Will this activity potentially affect environmentally sensitive areas/resources such as flood plain/wetlands, archeological or architectural historic properties, threatened or endangered species, and/or their habitat, special water sources (e.g. aquifer)? Habitat has been impacted by circumstances beyond DOE's control and action is necessary to prevent further damage to the area. USFWS consulted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Will this activity involve site characterization, environmental monitoring, or R&D programs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Will this activity involve any type of land disturbance, underground storage tank (UST), or subsurface injection/extraction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Will this activity involve a site evaluation area, RCRA/CERCLA area/facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
*Note:		
- If any answers to these questions are unknown, call the contractor Project Environmental Coordinator Manager, PPPO Project Manager, or PPPO NCO for consultation.		
- If any are marked "Yes", complete rest of NEPA Checklist.		
Environmental Impacts Evaluation (Note: If any are "Yes", provide specifics/supplemental information.)		
Air:		
• Will there be a new air emission or a change in the quantity of an existing air emission?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface Water:		
• Will there be a liquid release to streams, wetlands, seepage basins, storm drains, process sewers, ponds, or lakes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will river or stream water be utilized?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater:		
• Will there be a discharge to subsurface/groundwater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will groundwater be utilized?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safety:		
• Is there a potential exposure to hazardous substances (e.g. radiological/toxic/chemical materials)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is there a potential for explosion or criticality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does action involve transportation of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Natural/Cultural Resources:		
• Is there a potential for impacts on wetlands, streams, ponds, floodplains (or floodways), or special sources of water such as sole-source aquifers? If no action is taken Little Beaver Creek is likely to be impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Is there a potential impact on fish/wildlife resources or habitats? Habitat has been impacted by circumstances beyond DOE's control and action is necessary to prevent further damage to the area. USFWS consulted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Is there a potential impact on protected species (e.g. sensitive, state or federally-listed rare, threatened, or endangered) or their habitat? The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant contains habitat areas for the Northern Long Eared Bat. The area where the slip has occurred in not known to contain this species of bat. Removal of trees will be limited to those that are a safety concern or those that prevent taking actions necessary to stabilize the area. USFWS consulted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will this involve/effect any genetically engineered organism, synthetic biology, governmentally-designated noxious weeds or invasive species?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is there a potential for impacting archaeological or architectural historic properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does this action require an excavation permit?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential Cumulative Effects/Components for Larger Line Item Project:		
• Are there potential cumulative effects when combined with other actions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is the proposed activity a component of a larger line item project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Write in document title or reference number:		



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For Contractor Project Management Use Only

Contractor Project Contact Printed Name and Signature:		Contractor Company Name:	Telephone Number:
Joe Saltsman	JOSEPH SALTSMAN (Affiliate) <small>Digitally signed by JOSEPH SALTSMAN (Affiliate) Date: 2022.05.31 08:27:01 -04'00'</small>	Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC	740-897-2961

For DOE PPPO NEPA Compliance Officer Use Only (NEPA recommendation)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CX applied for by DOE Project Coordinator (Must meet all requirements of 10 <i>CFR</i> 1021.410(b) (Provide CX applicable number(s) below) <u>B1.3 Routine Maintenance</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Covered by previous NEPA documentation (CX, EA, EIS):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional NEPA documentation required: <input type="checkbox"/> EA <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> Revised ROD <input type="checkbox"/> Revised FONSI	
PPPO Project Manager Printed Name and Signature: Dee Powell DEWINTUS POWELL <small>Digitally signed by DEWINTUS POWELL Date: 2022.06.02 10:24:15 -04'00'</small>	Date NEPA Checklist Completed: May 11, 2022
For DOE PPPO NEPA Compliance Officer Use Only (NEPA determination) Based upon 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 the specific class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed actions are hereby categorically excluded for further NEPA review.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved – with comments <input type="checkbox"/> NOT approved – alternate NEPA action required	
DOE PPPO NEPA Compliance Office Signature: CYNTHIA ZVONAR <small>Digitally signed by CYNTHIA ZVONAR Date: 2022.06.09 10:32:21 -04'00'</small>	Date of Signature: June 9, 2022



Location of
suisidence



X-734

X-734A

X-618

X-230L

X-734B

X-744W

North Drainage
Little Beaver



X-204-L8 Soil Slip

0 400 Feet

5/3/2022
20220563-01





From: [Guilliams, Chris](#)
To: [Guilliams, Chris](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Request to set up a quick call
Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:11:53 PM

From: Boyer, Angela <angela_boyer@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Wiehle, Kristi <Kristi.Wiehle@pppo.gov>
Cc: Wilson, Jeff <jeff.wilson@ports.pppo.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request to set up a quick call

Hello,

Thank you for contacting me about this situation. Based on the emergency presented by this slip, the USFWS has no objection to clearing the trees at this time to remedy the slip.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Angela Boyer
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 4625
Morse Road, Suite 104 Columbus,
Ohio 43230

From: Wiehle, Kristi <Kristi.Wiehle@pppo.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 6:23 PM
To: Boyer, Angela <angela_boyer@fws.gov>
Cc: Wilson, Jeff <jeff.wilson@ports.pppo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to set up a quick call

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good Evening!

My name is Kristi Wiehle and I work for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in Pike County, Ohio. In the past, I think you may have dealt with Johnny Reising on our many of our correspondence here at the Portsmouth plant. Johnny retired from federal service at the end of 2021 and I have recently picked up several PORTS site projects from Johnny. DOE is contacting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) regarding an emergency tree clearing to allow stabilization of a significant ongoing rail spur slide at DOE's Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Decontamination and Decommissioning Project located in Pike County, Ohio. F&WS and DOE have coordinated numerous times in the past on potential impacts to the northern long-eared bat resulting from clearing required for the on-site waste disposal facility (OSWDF) being constructed

at the site. DOE appreciates F&WS support and timely responses in the past.

Recently, a railroad spur located in the northwest section of the DOE property (see attachment) has experienced an approximate one acre soil slip on the western side of the spur. The soil slip has encompassed the entire 70 foot spur embankment and is encroaching on the rail line. DOE has attached three photos identifying the approximate location of the slip on plant-site, a drone photo of the slip on top of the spur, and a photo looking “up” from the current base of the slip. For safety reasons, rail traffic on this vital rail line has been temporarily suspended but the rail line is still needed and critical to our plant operations.

Because of this importance, DOE is implementing a rapid response process to get the rail line operational as soon as possible. The trees that DOE are proposing to be removed include the one acre slip and approximately one acre of trees in the immediate area to stabilize the spur. Only trees that propose possible safety concerns or prevent DOE from implementing the appropriate repairs will be removed.

Based on your previous consultation in September 2018, as the hazard trees need to be removed between April 1 and September 30, DOE would like to contact your office for guidance on how to expeditiously proceed. We understand this is especially important considering the March proposal to reclassify the northern long eared bat as endangered. Could you propose a time where we could possibly have a quick call and discuss.

If you have any questions, or would like further clarification of this activity, please contact me at 614-634-2536.

Kristi Wiehle U.S.Department of
Energy Kristi.wiehle@pppo.gov
740-897-5020 - Work
614-634-2536 - Mobile

I am not authorized to change the scope, price, time required for contract performance, terms or conditions of the contract. If you believe that a change has been directed as a result of this letter (or email), then in accordance with contract clause DEAR 952.242-70 "Technical Direction," you are directed to contact the Contracting Officer, in writing, within five (5) working days after receipt of this letter (or email) and prior to taking any action as a result of this letter.

