

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY - NETL

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DESIGNATION FORM

Project No.: DE-FE0032291 Recipient Name: University of Texas Project Location: Austin, Texas

Sub-recipient(s) and Locations:

Project Astra partners (Chevron, Environmental Defense Fund, ExxonMobil, GTI, Microsoft, Pioneer Natural Resources, and Schlumberger) - Des Plaines, IL; Houston, Irving, Spring, & Midland, TX; New York, NY

NETL Sponsoring Org.: TDC/RS/AR&MMT NETL Contact: Scott Beutz

Brief Title of Proposed Action: Surface-based Methane Monitoring and Measurement Network Pilot Demonstration

Brief Description of Activities:

The objectives of the proposed work are to expand, improve and document an existing network that is testing the capabilities of continuous monitoring of methane emissions from oil and gas production...

THE PROPOSED ACTION FALLS WITHIN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION(S) FROM APPENDICES A AND B TO SUBPART D OF DOE NEPA IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES (10 CFR 1021):

General Administration/Management

- A1 - Routine business actions
A9 - Info gathering, analysis, documentation, dissemination, and training
A11 - Technical advice and planning assistance

Facility Operations

- B1.3 - Routine maintenance and custodial services
B1.7 - Communication system and data processing equipment acquisition, installation, operation, removal
B1.15 - Support building or structure, non-waste storage, construction/operation

Safety and Health

- B2.1 - Modifications to enhance workplace habitability
B2.2 - Installation/improvement of building/equipment instrumentation
B2.3 - Installation of equipment for personnel safety and health

General Research

- B3.1 - Site characterization/environmental monitoring
B3.6 - R&D or pilot facility construction/operation/decommissioning
B3.7 - New infill exploratory, experimental oil/gas/geothermal well construction and/or operation
B3.9 - Certain CCT demonstration activities, emissions unchanged
B3.11 - Outdoor tests, experiments on materials and equipment components

Electrical Power and Transmission

- B4.4 - Power management activities (storage, load shaping, and balancing)
B4.6 - Transmission support addition/modifications at developed facility site
B4.11 - Construction of power substations and interconnection facilities
B4.13 - Upgrading and rebuilding existing power lines (< 20 miles)

Conservation, Fossil, and Renewable Energy Activities

- B5.1 - Actions to conserve energy, no indoor air quality degradation
B5.3 - Modification/abandonment of wells
B5.5 - Short crude oil/gas/steam/geothermal/carbon dioxide pipeline const/oper within an existing right-of-way (< 20 miles) between existing facilities
B5.13 - Experimental wells for injection of small quantities of carbon dioxide (< 500,000 tons)
B5.15 - Small scale renewable energy research/development/pilot projects
B5.22 - Alternative fuel vehicle fueling stations
B5.23 - Electric vehicle charging stations

Other

- Specify category:
Specify category:
Specify category:

This action (1) would not present any extraordinary circumstances such that the action might have a significant impact upon the human environment; (2) is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts; (3) is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts; and (4) is not inconsistent with 10 CFR 1021.211 - Interim Actions or 40 CFR 1506.1 - Limitations during the NEPA process.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- This Categorical Exclusion includes all tasks and phases in the Statement of Work or Statement of Project Objectives for this project.
This Categorical Exclusion is only valid for the following tasks/phases See NCO Comment. The DOE initiator acknowledges the responsibility to obtain a NEPA determination prior to initiating any activities outside the scope of this Categorical Exclusion.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- This Categorical Exclusion includes all locations and activities for this project.
Additional sites, sub-recipients, or activities cannot be identified at this time. The DOE initiator acknowledges the responsibility to obtain a NEPA determination prior to initiating any activities outside the scope of this Categorical Exclusion.

NOTE: ANY CHANGE(S) TO THE PROJECT SCOPE OR LOCATIONS MAY REQUIRE A NEW NEPA DETERMINATION.

DOE Initiator Signature: Scott R. Beutz

Digitally signed by Scott R. Beutz Date: 2023.07.06 17:57:29 -0500

Date: 07 / 06 / 2023

month day year

NEPA Compliance Officer: STEPHEN WITMER

Digitally signed by STEPHEN WITMER Date: 2023.08.03 14:44:14 -0400

Date: 08 / 03 / 2023

month day year

The following special condition is provided for the consideration of the Contracting Officer:

Field deployment/monitoring activities are not covered under this CX. Details regarding the specific sites to be selected for monitoring activities will need to be provided to the NCO prior to NEPA clearance of field work.