

**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 H1 COOLING TOWER (AOC-007) RFI 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 H1 Cooling Tower [Area of Concern (AOC)-007] Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) Project is being undertaken to investigate the nature and extent of metals, primarily chromium and hexavalent chromium, and polychlorinated biphenyls in soil and groundwater. The scope of work will be accomplished by drilling soil borings, collecting and analyzing soil samples from target depths, and installing and sampling groundwater monitoring wells. The work will be performed in accordance with a work plan approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

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. The 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 H1 Cooling Tower (AOC-007) RFI 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:

David A.
Delwiche

Digitally signed by
David A. Delwiche
Date: 2023.12.21
12:58:48 -05'00'

Date: December 21, 2023

CX Determination Date