



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
NEPA Determination Form



Proposed Action Title: Categorical Exclusion for Bandelier Ponderosa Water Line Project

Program or Field Office: NA-LA

Location(s) (City/County/State): Los Alamos, NM and other Offsite Locations

Proposed Action Description

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to replace their existing water line to the Ponderosa Campground within Bandelier National Monument (BAND), with a portion of the project crossing New Mexico Road (NM) 4 and extending into Technical Area 16 (TA-16) on Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) property. NPS is requesting an easement from NNSA to allow connection of the proposed water line to an existing Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) water line in TA-16.

The proposed, new, 2-inch water line will be installed in the same location as the existing line. Excavation will take place within a 30-foot-wide easement for approximately 190 feet from the BAND property line, extending across NM 4 and into TA-16 to a connection point at the existing water line in TA-16. The water line will be installed underneath NM 4 and NNSA land by means of directional boring. The bore will be 5–10 feet deep under the easement, with 4-inch conduit placed to contain the water line and tracer wire. The bore entrance pit will be 10 feet long by 8 feet wide by 3 feet deep and will be placed within LANL property near the water line connection point. The exit pit will be 3 feet long by 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep and will be placed south of NM 4 near the NPS meter box. Potential spills or releases from directional boring would be managed by the NPS and utilizing best management practices (BMPs) for surface water and spoil piles (i.e., silt fencing, mulching). Before ground disturbance, brush and up to 4 inches of topsoil will be removed. All backfilling will use the native soil. Soil excavated on the LANL side will remain on DOE/NNSA property and will utilize silt fencing and mulching to prevent spread of surface soils. Following completion of the water line replacement, topsoil and brush will be replaced over the disturbed area. Where trenching is required, the trench will be approximately 3.5 feet deep and 4–8 inches wide. A chain trencher will be used to minimize trench size and spoils.

NPS will be responsible for implementing the project consistent with the description provided to NNSA. NPS is responsible to implement appropriate BMPs to mitigate stormwater contamination and prevent soils from migrating from the site. NPS shall notify NNSA in the event of an unplanned release on LANL property and NPS will be responsible to address any unplanned releases consistent with federal and state regulations. NPS is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied

B5.4 Repair or replacement of pipelines.

Repair, replacement, upgrading, rebuilding, or minor relocation of pipelines within existing rights-of-way, provided that the actions are in accordance with applicable requirements (such as Army Corps of Engineers permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act). Pipelines may convey materials including, but not limited to, air, brine, carbon dioxide, geothermal system fluids, hydrogen gas, natural gas, nitrogen gas, oil, produced water, steam, and water.



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Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021

For the complete *DOE National Environmental Policy Act* regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.

To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, DOE shall determine the following:

- (1) The proposal fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D;
- (2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a) (1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, include the following conditions as integral elements of the classes of actions. To fit within the classes of actions in Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health

NEPA Compliance Officer Determination

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under NNSA NAP 451.1 and DOE P 451.1), I have determined that the proposed actions fit within the specified at 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B5.4. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances present and that the proposal has not been segmented. If changes are made to the scope of the action so that it is no longer bounded by the above description, or the project is changed to encompass other action, NEPA requirements for the action will need to be reassessed at that time and further analysis may be required. I approve the proposed actions under 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B5.4. This determination is made pursuant to the NEPA [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.], the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for



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Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA [40 CFR 1500], and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures [10 CFR 1021].

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date