



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#: NA-24-0004

Proposed Action Title: Stewardship Science Academic Alliances (SSAA) Program Awards

Program or Field Office: NNSA/Office of Experimental Sciences, NA-113

Location(s) (City/County/State): Various locations

Proposed Action Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Office of Experimental Sciences, proposes to fund research through the Stewardship Science Academic Alliances (SSAA) Program (established in 2002) to support state-of-the-art research at U.S. academic institutions in the areas of fundamental physical science and technology of relevance to the Stockpile Stewardship Program (SSP) mission.

The location of the facilities selected for the SSAA program awards would generally be any accredited University/academic institution of higher education in any State, Federal District, or Territory of the U.S. Additionally, funding could be provided to any not-for-Profit, non-degree-granting domestic U.S. scientific research organization. This would include (but not be limited to) independent museums and science centers, observatories, research laboratories, professional societies, and research or educational activities. Research would be conducted in existing research facilities in one or more of the fundamental areas of the following physical sciences: (1) Properties of Materials under Extreme Conditions and/or Hydrodynamics; (2) Low Energy Nuclear Science; (3) Radiochemistry; and (4) High Energy Density Physics.

The financial assistance would be given to the institution for travel, fringe and indirect costs, supplies and materials, equipment, user fees, publication costs, tuition, stipends and salaries to support staff, undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral students, research professors, their principle investigator(s) and other universities' support (collaborators). Funded research would be conducted in existing research facilities. Awards may be used to cover costs associated with minor equipment modifications, upgrades, and/or purchases. If federal funds are proposed for scope beyond that described here, a new environmental checklist is required to be submitted to NNSA for additional NEPA analysis.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A 9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination
B 1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment
B 3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects
B 3.10 Particle accelerators

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 A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021,



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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 action fits within the specified class(es) of action and I have reviewed the proposal for integral elements. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances present and that the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined: