



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
PROGRAMMATIC NEPA DETERMINATION
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY**

PND Number: NREL-PND-01

Title: Routine Business Activities, Administrative Activities, and Planning Actions

This Programmatic NEPA Determination applies to routine business activities, administrative activities, and planning actions conducted by the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). These types of activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Award interpretations and modifications without change in scope (e.g., revising a contract to change the period of performance)
2. Awarding contracts (e.g., subcontracts, Task Order agreements, purchase orders, cooperative research and development agreements, and Work for Others agreements)
3. Establishing new leases for office space
4. Renewing lease agreements where activities would remain the same
5. Emergency preparedness planning and emergency planning exercises
6. Design activities, including:
 - a. Conceptual design or preliminary design activities for building construction (to establish cost and scope where funding may or may not be available, and the project may or may not go forward)
 - b. Final design activities for infrastructure and building repair, maintenance, and upgrades (to establish cost and scope where funding may or may not be available, and the project may or may not go forward)
 - c. Projects where preliminary field work (i.e., a site visit) is needed to inform the design team (e.g., visiting a site to ascertain where a met tower would be placed)
7. Procurement of services such as:
 - a. Support services, including software maintenance agreements and license renewals; analytical services; emergency response services; library agreements and subscriptions; conference, workshop, and training registration; equipment and facility repair and maintenance;
 - b. Technical services, including consulting support; engineering reviews; computer modeling; independent reviews and assessments; training support and development; information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

8. Procurement actions that would support ongoing business, operational, and research activities, such as:
 - a. Office equipment and supplies
 - b. Research supplies, parts, and equipment
 - c. Safety equipment (e.g., PPE, signage, monitoring and sampling equipment)
 - d. Facility and infrastructure parts and equipment
 - e. Furniture, including cubicle walls and storage cabinets
 - f. Computer and network software, hardware, and peripherals

Activities Not Covered:

The following actions are considered to be routine business activities, administrative activities, and planning actions but are specifically excluded from this determination and require additional NEPA review. These include but are not limited to:

1. Individual tasks under a Task Order agreement awarded for construction, earthmoving, trenching, or utility repair
2. Leasing new laboratory space
3. Renewing lease agreements where activities to be conducted in the leased space would change
4. Site characterization or environmental monitoring
5. Design activities:
 - a. Final design for building construction
 - b. Design/build projects
 - c. Design/bid/build projects
6. Construction activities

Applicable Categorical Exclusions:

- A1 **Routine DOE business actions:** Routine actions necessary to support the normal conduct of DOE business limited to administrative, financial, and personnel actions.
- A2 **Clarifying or administrative contract actions:** Contract interpretations, amendments, and modifications that are clarifying or administrative in nature.
- A8 **Awards of certain contracts:** Awards of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services.
- A9 **Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination:** Information gathering; data analysis, document preparation; and information dissemination, but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

A12 **Emergency preparedness planning:** Emergency preparedness planning activities, including, but not limited to, the designation of onsite evacuation routes.

B1.24 **Property transfers:** Transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in personal property or real property.

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

Rationale:

DOE has determined that the proposed actions are consistent with the actions contained in DOE Categorical Exclusions A1, A2, A8, A9, A12, and B1.24 that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.

There are no known extraordinary circumstances that would affect the significance of the environmental effects of the covered activities. The activities have not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Determination:

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, that the other regulatory requirements set forth above have been met, and that the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Gusdin Kev

Kristin Kev

Date:

7/17/2017

The DOE Golden Field Office will revisit this Programmatic NEPA Determination annually and update as warranted.

NEPA Compliance Officer:	Date Reviewed:	Updated version number or N/A for no revisions made: