



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

PND Number: NREL-PND-03

Title: Research Activities in Existing, Indoor, Offsite Non-NREL Research/Laboratory Facilities

The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) frequently and routinely collaborates, partners, and provides funding to others that have specialized expertise, capabilities, facilities, and capacity to further the laboratory's research operations. The proposed actions comprise laboratory or bench-scale research activities, small-scale fabrication, and analytical sample testing that occurs in existing, offsite, indoor non-NREL facilities utilized in support of research operations. These types of activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Laboratory or bench-scale research and development activities
2. Small-scale fabrication
3. Conventional laboratory operations, including preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis

Activities Not Covered:

The following are not considered bench-scale laboratory or small scale fabrication actions. These are specifically excluded from this determination and require additional NEPA review. These include but are not limited to:

1. Outdoor activities
2. Pilot- or large-scale research activities
3. Demonstration actions undertaken to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial development
4. Activities requiring a modification of existing permits or regulatory approval prior to undertaking the activity
5. Construction or reconfiguration of existing laboratory facilities resulting in a new or larger footprint
6. Construction of a new laboratory facility

Applicable Categorical Exclusion:

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects: operation of facilities for small-scale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that

construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

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 Part 1021.

Rationale:

DOE has determined that the proposed actions are consistent with the actions contained in DOE Categorical Exclusion B3.6 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.

Activities would occur in existing, indoor, offsite, non-NREL owned research/laboratory or fabrication facilities and would not involve ground disturbance or outdoor work. The facilities would have all required permits and comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. All facilities would have pre-established protocols for laboratory and facility safety, risk management, chemical and hazardous materials handling, and waste disposal.

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, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

 Kristin Kerwin

Date: 07/17/2017

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: