U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Lightning Mapping Array Project - Amend. 02

Program or Field Office: NNSA Production Office (Pantex)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Amarillo, Carson, Texas

Proposed Action Description:

The original NEPA document for the Lightning Mapping Array (LMA) project addressed the installation of eight sensors, on tripods, to detect the electrical activity in the area surrounding the Pantex Plant. The first amendment addressed the addition of a third site on Texas Tech property as well as sensors to be located at the NIRP (Nuclear Incident Response Program) near the Amarillo Rick Husband International Airport. The second amendment addresses the installation of containment boxes for the 12-volt batteries associated with each solar-powered sensor. Plastic boxes (10 ¼" x 6 ¾" x 9 ½") would be installed inside the existing battery box at each location to provide containment in case of leakage of lead acid. This would be considered a best management practice and not mandated by a Department of Energy order. It is suggested that bollards or another form of protective barrier be placed around the Northwest location to prevent damage from farm equipment or other vehicles. Because the batteries contain lead and sulfuric acid, and would be managed under a "recycle" label, they would be disposed of properly.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A8 - Awards of certain contracts

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

B1.24 - Property transfers

B3.1 - Site characterization and environmental monitoring

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.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☑ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, 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 listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☑ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☑ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This 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.

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: Jack Zanger

Digitally signed by Jack Zanger
DN: c=us, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Energy, ou=Pantex Plant, ou=NNSA Site Office, serialNumber=jzanger, cn=Jack Zanger
Date: 2015.03.18 14:50:18 -05'00'

Date Determined: 03/18/2015

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