



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Construction of Interagency Fire Center at TA-49

Program or Field Office: Los Alamos Site Office (DOE/NNSA)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Los Alamos, NM

Proposed Action Description:

The Los Alamos Site Office proposes to approve construction of a new, single-story multipurpose interagency fire center at Technical Area (TA)-49. The National Park Service (NPS) would be the primary building occupant, under an agreement with NNSA and the US Forest Service. The purpose of the facility is to support interagency operations for wildfire response. The building would contain about 6,400 square feet of offices, training and conference rooms and about 200 square feet of storage for fire protection/suppression equipment. Habitat disturbance would be both temporary and minimal at the fire center site, with less than an acre of undeveloped land disturbed. Construction would include removal of temporary office trailers and structures currently on the site, realignment of a short segment of the existing access road to the existing temporary buildings, paving and gravelling, and installation of utilities. The NPS would construct the building. It is also designing the facility to qualify for LEED silver or gold certification. NNSA would supply water, gas, and electricity to the new facility from either existing mains along State Road (SR)-4 or via short distribution lines from existing utilities along the TA-49 entrance road. Approximately 450 feet of gas line, 450 feet of either buried or overhead electrical cable, and 300 feet of water line would be required. The NPS would remove 2 existing septic tanks and infiltrator beds and would install new septic tanks and effluent disposal field. The septic system would require a permit from the State Environment Department, which would be the responsibility of the NPS under the lease agreement with NNSA. Standard stormwater controls would be established in accordance with a stormwater pollution prevention plan. No sensitive resources would be affected by the proposed action. Nearby areas with sensitive resources would be marked for avoidance and monitoring would take place as needed to ensure resource protection. All construction activities, including laydown areas and staging, would be confined to designated areas. See LAN-12-002 for additional project info.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.15 - Support buildings

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: *Nancy J. Kaul*

Date Determined: 01/17/2012