



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Bldg. 5 Short-Term Tensile Structure --LB-CX-19-07

Program or Field Office: Bay Area Site Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Berkeley, California

Proposed Action Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to install a temporary tensile (tent-like) structure in its “Old Town” area to provide centrally located, institutional storage and staging space. The tensile structure would provide shelter from the elements and temperature control; it would support a variety of operations and scientific division functions. LBNL has identified this proposal as the most operationally advantageous and cost-effective means for addressing the Lab’s need for additional onsite storage and staging space. DOE would enter into a parcel lease agreement with the University of California Regents and a supplement to the Bailey Tract to document the changes; the leased parcel would encompass the tensile structure’s footprint and the lease term would be negotiated commensurate with the structure’s expected useful life.

The temporary structure would be installed on the location of the recently demolished Bldg. 5. Although the site is currently paved, a fresh concrete pad would be poured to provide a uniform, level surface to serve as the structure’s floor. The approximately 4,950-gsf (110’ x 45’, with a maximum height of 27’-6”) structure would be composed of an opaque polyurethane membrane stretched over 12 prefabricated aluminum arches bolted to the underlying concrete pad. Electrical power supply would be extended from nearby Old Town conduit and would power lighting, exhaust vents, a fire alarm system, temperature control, and communications systems. Free-standing shelving units would be installed in the interior. Exterior walls would be neither reflective nor visually obtrusive in color; the structure would not be visible from most off-site viewpoints. Foundation and structural installation would take approximately 3 months; total project cost would be around \$3 million.

The proposed site is centrally located within the LBNL campus and surrounded by Buildings 6 and 7 to the west (Bldg. 7 is scheduled for demolition in the near future), Buildings 45 and 48 to the south, Buildings 30 and 33 to the east, and McMillan Road and a steeply climbing hillside to the north. There is currently not a firm date for when the temporary structure would be removed; at such time of its disassembly, the structure would be reused and/or recycled (e.g., aluminum frame, shelving units) and/or disposed of (e.g., polyurethane membrane) at an appropriate disposal facility.

Construction activities, including minor trenching for electrical supply and concrete pouring, would be managed under air quality, noise, hazards, water quality, and truck trip “Standard Project Features,” and LBNL best-management practices. Operationally, the proposed Project would be unnoticeable from most off-site viewpoints and would minimize visual clutter by consolidating operational laydown materials within a covered structure.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.24 - Property transfers

B1.15 - Support buildings

B1.31 - Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment

B1.23 - Demolition and disposal of 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.

I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed action.

LBNL Environmental Planner:



Jeff Philliber

Date Determined: 9-13-19

I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed action.

BASO Fed Project Director:



Rick Chapman

Date Determined: 9-19-2019

The above description accurately describes the proposed action, which reflects the requirements of the CX cited above. Therefore, I recommend that the proposed action be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

BASO NEPA Program Manager:

Susan Fields

Date Determined: _____

BASO MIP Division Director:

Mary Gross

Date Determined: _____

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1 B), 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:

Date Determined:

[Click here to enter a date](#)

Figures: Project Location and Elevation Diagrams

