



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: 2021 Backup Generators Project (LB-CX-21-08)

Program or Field Office: Bay Area Site Office, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

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

Proposed Action Description: The US Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to install new diesel power backup generators at LBNL's Bayview and Fire Protection Complex locations. One permanent generator would be installed at each location for a total of two new backup generators. The project proposes to:

- a) Provide standby power to the new Biological and Environmental Program Integration Center (BioEPIC, Building 92 currently under construction) and upgraded Modular Utility Plant (MUP, Building 91U); and
- b) Supply dedicated, full capacity back-up power for the Fire House and Fire Station to meet current code requirements.

The Project need is to address power requirements of the respective LBNL campus locations during Pacific Gas & Electricity's (PG&E's) Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events as well as during other unplanned outages.

Project installation would consist of one two-megawatt generator (Bayview Generator) in the Bayview Planning Area and one 150-kilowatt generator (Fire Complex Generator) in the Old Town area overlooking Buildings 45 (Fire Station) and 48 (Firehouse), as shown in Figure 1. Both generators would be stationed on campus indefinitely or until no longer needed. Each diesel-powered generator would be equipped with an integrated subbase fuel tank as well as a US EPA Tier 4 engine with a diesel particulate filter. The generators and any associated equipment would undergo all necessary permitting, including operating permits from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

Because of the unpredictable nature of PSPS events and other outages, the generators would operate for variable durations to meet the needs of the aforementioned facilities. The Bayview Generator has a fuel tank capacity of approximately 3,500 gallons and could run for 24 hours at full capacity. The Fire Complex Generator could run for approximately 72 hours at full capacity with a fuel tank volume of 720 gallons. Refueling may be achieved from delivery trucks at a rate of up to 1 truck trip per day for the Bayview Generator and 1 truck every 3 days for the Fire Complex Generator during full operation, assuming a truck capacity of 5,000 gallons.

Project construction would take place on previously developed surfaces; precise footprints and associated installation details are still under design consideration. Each generator would be inside a sound attenuated enclosure, minimizing any noise effects to the greatest extent possible.

Project installation would involve transporting and assembling the few pieces of equipment; limited excavation and construction activities would take place. All applicable LBNL "Standard Project Features" would be exercised throughout Project installation, operation, and deactivation.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.31 - Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment

B2.5 - Facility safety and environmental improvements

B4.6 - Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

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 Sr. Site &
Environmental Planner:**



Jeff Philliber

10/7/2021

Date Determined

**BASO NEPA Program
Manager:**

Jose Roldan

Date Determined

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:**

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:**

Peter Siebach

Date Determined

FIGURE 1: Project Locations

