



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Offsite Lease Extension and continued Operation of Kbase at Emery Station 1 5858 Horton Street Emeryville, CA 94608 (LB-CX-14-03)

Program or Field Office: Berkeley Site Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

The Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to extend the existing lease of approximately 5,300 square feet for the operation of Kbase for a period of up to an additional seven years. Kbase is a multi-institutional effort to consolidate the numerous different sources of scientific information on plants and microbes into a single cyberdatabase.

Purpose and Need:

For over a decade, experts have pointed to a need for more integrated computational processing of new biology data, which has been expanding at an increasing pace as sequencing and other technologies have advanced. In 2011, DOE's Office of Biological and Environmental Research launched KBase, an open-source, open-architecture software and data environment for systems biology research. As a community resource, KBase provides a computational framework and tools for integrating and analyzing large, diverse datasets generated by the scientific community to advance predictive understanding, manipulation, and design of biological processes in an environmental context. The purpose of KBase is to enable users to integrate a wide spectrum of genomics and systems biology data, models, and information for microbes, microbial communities, and plants. Powerful tools within KBase allow users to analyze and simulate data to predict biological behavior, generate and test hypotheses, design new biological functions, and propose new experiments.

Description of Affected Environment:

The building located at 5858 Horton Street, in Emeryville, California, was constructed in 1999 and is listed as a rentable 270,000 ft² facility. It is a laboratory and office building that is typical of the neighborhood and of Emeryville in general. The prior use of the facility was for temporary office space. This is an extension to an existing lease for the space occupied by LBNL.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.24 - Property transfers

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.

BSO Project Manager: Rick Chapman *R. Chapman* Date Determined: 7/28/14

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.

Program Point of Contact: Kim Abbott *K. Abbott* Date Determined: 7/28/14

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: Gary Hartman *Gary S. Hartman* Date Determined: 7/29/2014