



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Office of Secure Transportation Construction of Permitted Area Boundary Fence and Vehicle Entrapment Gates (CX-ORR-13-006)

Program or Field Office: Oak Ridge Reservation

Location(s) (City/County/State): Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Proposed Action Description:

The National Nuclear Security Agency's Office of Secure Transportation (OST) proposes to install fencing along the Agent Operations Eastern Command's permitted boundary. Fences would be a combination of three-strand, barbed wire and a 7-ft high, typical 2-in mesh, galvanized fence that would be installed the length of the permitted area (approximately 9,200 ft). A set of gates would also be installed to create two vehicle entrapment areas to control access into the fenced area along the existing paved property access routes and the limited area at the OST Secure Transportation Center.

Fence installation would require clearing and grubbing along existing cuts in the forested area with some small tree removal in areas that have been overgrown in past years. However, the project would follow the existing rights-of-way, with only limited trimming of shrubs and saplings along the wood line to ease fence installation. One small, dead snag along the western boundary of the proposed fence would be removed. This area was monitored to determine if the area could be a potential bat habitat, and no bats were detected in the area. Therefore, the dead snag would be removed expediently since the area has been recently reviewed and cleared. No other sensitive wildlife habitat would be potentially impacted by the project. The fence line was also examined by a plant ecologist, and no rare plants were found. The project scope would include all necessary surveying, trenching, paving, and electrical and communication cabling. It would also include the necessary earthwork for site access, clearing, grubbing, tree cutting, and site drainage contouring.

Excavation permits would be obtained via appropriate administrative channels in place on the Oak Ridge Reservation for post holes and trenching activities, including the Tennessee One requirements. In addition, the disturbed areas along the new fence lined would be seeded with native grasses, if necessary.

There is a very small patch of wetland vegetation in the right-of-way adjacent to where the fence would be placed; however, the area was examined and it does not contain wetland soils. The overall hydrological determination, based on evaluation of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) established field indicators, concluded that the drainage is a wet weather conveyance.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.11 - Fencing

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

B1.15 - Support buildings

B2.2 - Building and equipment instrumentation

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.

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: Justin Brown, OST/NNSA

Date Determined: 7/2/2013

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 S. Hartman

Date Determined: 7/2/2013