National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion (CX) for Reconfiguration of Facilities to Support the Integrated Facilities Disposition Project (3572X)

The Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Office (ORO) proposes to reconfigure facilities at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) that would enable the Integrated Facility Disposition Project (IFDP) to (1) deactivate and demolish excess facilities, (2) obtain access to soils and groundwater necessary to complete remedial actions, and (3) remove legacy materials. These actions are Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) driven components of IFDP; however, facilities and infrastructure at ORNL must also be upgraded to complete the mission of IFDP. The proposed action would enhance and extend the useful life of utility systems that are needed for future and ongoing facility support and operation activities at ORNL.

Several components of IFDP would involve CERCLA activities that are interrelated to the proposed action and will not be addressed through the NEPA process. Although these actions will be addressed through the CERCLA process, NEPA values will be incorporated into the CERCLA document as appropriate.

The proposed action would include consolidating wastewater treatment activities into Building 3608 (NonRadiological Wastewater Treatment Plant). Building 3608 would be modified by adding two zeolite columns, additional filtration equipment, and other ancillary equipment. New concrete diked areas would be installed on the north-east side and east side of the existing diked pad at Building 3608 to support the new equipment. Piping modifications would be required to tie the zeolite columns and filters into the existing process equipment. This facility is designed to treat between 900,000 and one million gallon/day of wastewater. The overall treatment capacity of the system will not change after the proposed modifications to Building 3608.

Several incidental process wastewater drains would be diverted to the new sanitary system once it is constructed and operational as part of the ORNL Modernization Initiative (DOE/EA-1618, July 2008). This would involve disconnecting existing process drains and reconnecting them to existing sanitary sewer lines in approximately 7 buildings in the Bethel Valley area of ORNL. Process lines would typically be cut just outside the facility wall(s) and new line(s) would be installed below ground that would run to existing sanitary manholes.

The proposed action would also include installing stand-alone ventilation systems for several facilities in the 4500 Area. This would involve installing new high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtered ventilation systems, fans, and blowers in Building 4501, and erecting a 60-foot-high stainless steel exhaust stack (32-inch diameter) attached to the west side of the building. An approximately 150 square foot concrete pad would be constructed to hold a backup power generator for the systems. The hot cell and hood exhaust gases from Buildings 4501 and 4505 would be rerouted to the new ventilation system and the exhaust ducts would be disconnected from the 3039 Stack Central System. The existing vacuum pump and Hot Off Gas (HOG) systems for Building 4500N would be disconnected from the 3039 Stack, and a new HEPA filtration/blower system would be installed in Building 4500N.

No new permits or modifications to existing permits would be required for the proposed action. This project has been evaluated to determine doses for both onsite and offsite members of the public. These evaluations have demonstrated that the doses would be considerably less than 0.1 mrem. Under the RADNESHAPS program these sources would therefore remain as minor sources. The proposed action would take place in previously developed areas and would not disturb sensitive resources. The proposed action has been evaluated by Pollution Prevention personnel for action options to reduce or eliminate the generation of waste materials.

All hazardous and radioactively contaminated wastes will be properly handled and disposed of in accordance with approved procedures and practices, including characterization, packaging and certification of the waste to assure that it meets the acceptance requirements of the receiving organization.

This project would pose no threat of significant individual or cumulative environmental effects. The described action would not be part of an ongoing Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. No extraordinary circumstances would be related to this action, and the proposal would not be connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts.

The proposed actions fall under Section 5.1.1.A.1 of the Cultural Resource Management Plan (DOE/ORO 2085, July 2001). In addition, these actions fall under Level Two: Internal Review of the ORNL Historic Preservation Plan (ORNL/TM-2004/62, April 2004). Construction activities near Building 4501 would take place on the west side of the facility and will not adversely affect its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The applicable CXs under 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, for these actions are as identified below:

B1.15 Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; employee health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (including security posts); fire protection; and similar support purposes, but excluding facilities for waste storage activities, except as provided in other parts of this appendix.

B2.3 Installation of, or improvements to, equipment for personnel safety and health, including, but not limited to, eye washes, safety showers, radiation monitoring devices, and fume hoods and associated collection and exhaust systems, provided that emissions would not increase.

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

J. T. Howell — August 16, 2010

J. T. Howell
DOE-ORO Deputy Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management

Date

Based on my review and the recommendation of the DOE-ORO Deputy Assistant Manager, I have determined that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Gary S. Hartman — 9/17/2010

G. S. Hartman
DOE-ORO NEPA Compliance Officer

Date