

**Categorical Exclusion (CX) Determination
for ETTP Airport Feasibility Study (CX-K25-562)**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Office (ORO) proposes to allow the Knoxville Airport Authority through its contractor, LPA Group, Inc., to obtain soil borings in support of a feasibility study currently underway to verify subsoil conditions at proposed airport locations at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP).

Three sets of soil borings would be excavated within three proposed sites for the location of an airport at ETTP. The soil borings would be to determine subsoil conditions related to the potential cost of developing each site. The borings would be to a depth of 25 feet or rejection. They would be 6 to 8 inches wide with the soil being returned to the holes after samples are collected. Any remaining soil would be collected and deposited on-site at a location designated by UCOR LLC.

The proposed locations of the borings would be along three transects, two of which would be within the boundaries of ETTP and the third along Pine Ridge (See attached drawing, Proposed Sample Points for Airport Feasibility Study). The location of actual borings would be adjusted as necessary to avoid underground infrastructure, sensitive areas, historical sites, and minimize the impact to undisturbed wooded areas. The borings within the ETTP site would be located so as to avoid the contaminated groundwater plume in the K-1200 and Administrative Areas (see attached groundwater plume map). The proposed action meets the criteria for conditions that are integral elements of actions eligible for categorical exclusion as stated under Appendix B to Subpart D, 10 CFR 1021. Specifically, the proposed action is not expected to disturb sites that provide a natural habitat for threatened or endangered animal or plant species. No wetland disturbance would take place, and the proposed action would not take place within the 100-year floodplain of any surface water body.

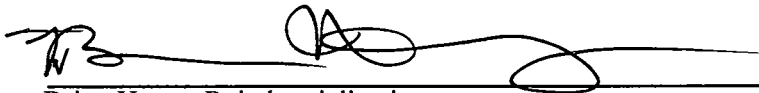
Consistent with Appendix B to Subpart D, 10 CFR 1021, the activities covered under this CX would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders; would not require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment facilities; would not 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; and would not adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. The described action is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts and is not part of a proposed action that is or may be the subject of an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action, and the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts.

This proposed action is in a previously disturbed area and no additional disturbances are necessary. The proposed action that would take place on the Oak Ridge Reservation has been reviewed in accordance with the *Cultural Resource Management Plan, DOE Oak Ridge Reservation Anderson and Roane Counties, Tennessee* (DOE/ORO-2085, issued July 2001), and found to be addressed in Section 5.1.1.3.A.1. DOE-ORO has determined that the proposed undertaking would not have an adverse effect upon historic properties; therefore no further review is needed and Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied.

The applicable CX under 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, for these actions is identified below:

B3.1 – Onsite and offsite characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis.

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.

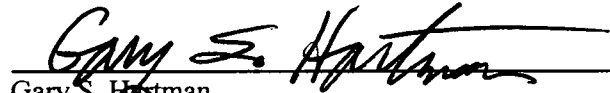


Brian Henry, Reindustrialization
DOE-ORO Program Manager

9-21-11

Date

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



Gary S. Hartman
DOE-ORO NEPA Compliance Officer

9/23/2011

Date

