



# U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Building 28 Verizon Cellular Enhancement Project--LB-CX-19-05

Program or Field Office: Bay Area Site Office

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

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Proposed Action Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to improve its currently deficient on-site cellular phone signal coverage at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL, or the Lab) by allowing Verizon Cellular to fund, install, and operate nine cellular service antennas on LBNL's existing, DOE-owned radio tower adjacent to Bldg. 28 (Figure 1). To accommodate the weight of these antennae, the tower would be reinforced. In addition, DOE would enter into an agreement with the University of California (UC) to designate and lease a parcel upon which the existing tower resides.

The Bldg. 28 cellular tower is a simple, steel-lattice, approximately 140-foot-high structure in the geographic center of the LBNL campus. The tower currently holds several microwave dishes, diplexers, and wireless and omni antennae at a range of heights; it stands atop a concrete pad and is adjacent to a small communications equipment shelter (Bldg. 28). Views of the tower from off-site viewpoints are largely obscured by surrounding hilly terrain, trees, buildings, and distance; the site is not within a governmentally designated scenic area.

After reinforcing the existing tower with replacement cross-bracing, the proposed Project would install a total of nine antennae on three horizontal antenna mounts at a height of approximately 60 feet, which is below the mid-point height of the tower. A small concrete pad (about 270 square feet) would be placed near the tower base to hold equipment. A shallow trench would be temporarily constructed to pull electrical power from a utility plant approximately 100 feet to the west. If approved, project construction is expected to begin in early 2020 and to take approximately six months. No more than 10 construction workers are expected during peak shifts; the Project is expected to generate five total truck trips and to use a construction crane.

The existing tower does not reside on a leased parcel; it is included under the category "Other Structures and Facilities" in an Occupancy Agreement between UC and DOE. Under the proposed Project, an approximately 1,500-square-foot parcel would be created to include the tower and the adjacent appurtenances (i.e., the existing and proposed new concrete pads with equipment shelters). The parcel would be leased by UC to DOE for a five-year term followed by three additional five-year renewal options for a total of twenty years.

Construction activities, including minor trenching and concrete pouring, would be minimal managed under air quality, noise, hazards, water quality, and truck trip "Standard Project Features" and LBNL best-management practices. Operationally, the proposed Project would be virtually unnoticeable from off-site viewpoints; the most noticeable project feature would be improved cellular service at LBNL.

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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.24 - Property transfers

B1.7 - Electronic equipment

B1.19 - Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

B1.31 - Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment

Choose an item.

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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.

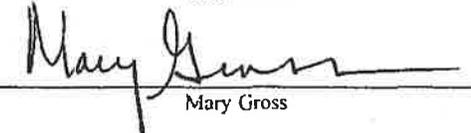
**LBNL Environmental Planner:**  Date Determined: 7-3-19  
Jeff Philliber

I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed action.

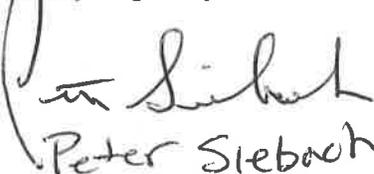
**BASO Fed Project Director:** RICHARD CHAPMAN Digitally signed by RICHARD CHAPMAN Date: 2019.07.03 16:14:12 -07'00' Date Determined: 7-3-19  
Rick Chapman

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:**  Date Determined: 7-8-19  
Susan Fields

**BASO MIP Division Director:**  Date Determined: 7-8-19  
Mary Gross

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:**  Date Determined: 7/9/2019  
Peter Siebach

