



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

Proposed Action Title: Lease and Operation of Greenhouses at UC Davis for the Joint BioEnergy Institute, Amendment No. 4 (LB-CX-22-06)

Program or Field Office: Berkeley Site Office, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

Location(s) (City/County/State): UC Davis, Yolo County, California

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Proposed Action Description:

The Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to extend the existing lease for the continued use and operations of two approximately 400-square-foot greenhouses at UC Davis until September 30, 2027. The greenhouses provide controlled growth conditions for plants such as sorghum and switchgrass to support the Joint BioEnergy Institute (JBEI). JBEI, a multi-institution research collaboration headed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), explores next generation biofuels and bioproducts derived from solar energy stored in plant biomass. The original lease was approved in 2010 and was reviewed pursuant to NEPA (LB-CX-10-01); it was subsequently amended in 2013 (LB-CX-13-09), 2015 (LB-CX-15-06), and 2018 (LB-CX-18-06).

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A2 – Clarifying or contract administrative actions
- B1.24 – Property transfers
- B3.6 – Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

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 Site &  
Environmental Planner:**



Leana Sossikian

June 8, 2022

Date Determined

**BSO NEPA Program  
Manager:**

JOSE ROLDAN

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Date: 2022.07.07 11:10:00 -07'00'

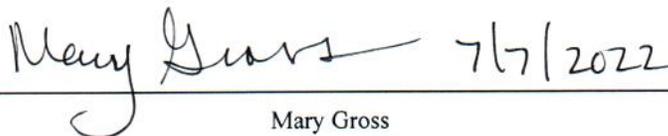
Jose Roldan

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date.

Date Determined

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.

**BSO Director of  
Operations:**



Mary Gross

Click here to enter a  
date.

Date Determined

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:**

Peter Siebach

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date.

Date Determined