

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion (CX) Applicable Determination for Conducting Macroencapsulation Treatment in the Parking Lot of the Contact Handled Marshalling Building (CHMB) at the TRU Waste Processing Center (TWPC) on the Oak Ridge Reservation, Tennessee (CX-TWPC-09-0003)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Office (ORO) proposed activity is to conduct macroencapsulation treatment in the parking lot of the Contact Handled Marshalling Building (CHMB) at the TWPC located on the Oak Ridge Reservation, TN of low-level mixed waste in preparation for shipment to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) for final disposition. Wastes stored at ORNL are shipped to the TWPC for processing in preparation for offsite disposal of transuranic (TRU) waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and low level and/or low level mixed waste at the NTS.

The macroencapsulation treatment technology utilizes a 6 drum overpack metal box, or other appropriately sized metal container with a polyethylene macro liner. Waste containers are loaded into the macroencapsulation container, void space is filled with foam, vermiculite, or other NTS approved fill material. The lid is welded to the polyethylene macro unit by supplying an electrical current to embedded wires in the lid. Macroencapsulation treatment is currently permitted and conducted at the TWPC in the 7880 Process Building Box Breakdown Area and in the 7880HH Macroencapsulation Building. In order to reduce worker exposure and safety issues associated with moving containers from the CHMB to Building 7880HH for macroencapsulation, the additional area located near the CHMB is required for use to perform macroencapsulation.

The proposed action will utilize current TWPC facilities and equipment at a developed site with active utilities and readily accessible roads. The macroencapsulation process will be conducted on sealed containers of waste and does not involve opening any waste. Additionally, no waste will be stored outside of currently approved facilities. The proposed action is also a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit treatment activity, which has been approved of by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) through a Temporary Authorization (TA). The TA will be valid until such time as TDEC makes a final ruling on the associated Class 2 permit modification.

The proposed action meets the eligibility criteria for conditions that are integral elements of actions covered by categorical exclusions as stated in 10 CFR 1021.

The TWPC completed an Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0305-F) that covered the following actions; construction, operations, and decontamination and decommissioning of a treatment facility for the legacy and newly generated TRU and alpha low level wastes, pending off-site disposal. This EIS found that DOE needs to treat the legacy TRU and alpha low level waste from ORNL in order to reduce the risk to human health and the environment and to comply with legal mandates from TDEC and the ORNL Site Treatment Plan.

CX-TWPC-09-0003

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UNCLASSIFIED
Larry Sparks *JS*
DOE ORO Classification Officer
Date: 1-21-2010
Approved for Public Release

7/27/2009

Since the waste containers will not be opened or unpacked, the applicable CX under 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, for this action is identified below:

B6.5 Siting, construction (or modification or expansion), operation, and decommissioning of an onsite facility for characterizing and sorting previously packaged waste or for overpacking waste, other than high-level radioactive waste, if operations do not involve unpacking waste. These actions do not include waste storage (covered under B6.4, B6.6, B6.10, and C16) or the handling of spent nuclear fuel.

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.



Bill McMillan
DOE TRU Waste Project Manager

1/25/10

Date

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



Gary S. Hartman, NEPA Compliance Officer
DOE ORO

2/1/2010

Date