



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Pantex Site Office
P. O. Box 30030
Amarillo, TX 79120



NEPA Compliance Officer Rationale

Pantex Site Office

Proj. No.: D&D-10-001-C

NEPA ID No.: PXP-10-0001

Amendment No 10-008

Decontamination & Demolition of Residential and Farm Structures

Application of DOE NEPA Procedure: Categorical Exclusion B1.23, Applicable to Facility Operations (10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B), applies to the proposed activity.

Rationale: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), recently acquired 1,526 acres of land to allow access for environmental monitoring and implementation of institutional controls. This property contains two homesteads located approximately 2 miles north of Highway 60 and 3 miles east of Pantex's main gate. The homesteads, approximately ½ mile apart, have been vacant for several years and have severely deteriorated. The scope of the original project involves demolishing these two residential homesteads and associated support structures east of the Pantex Plant. The scope of Amendment No. 10-008 includes removal of trees and bushes at the Poteet homestead. Removal is necessary for safety and health reasons, exotic plant species control, and to prevent accidental takings of migratory bird young or eggs protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. More in-depth discussions can be found in Pantex NEPA review forms PXP-10-0001 and Amendment 10-008, which are hereby incorporated by reference. Categorical Exclusion B1.23 applies in cases of:

Demolition and subsequent disposal of buildings, equipment, and support structures (including, but not limited to, smoke stacks and parking lot surfaces)

Based upon the information in the NEPA review forms referenced above, this demolition proposal as described does not present any extraordinary circumstances of a unique or uncertain nature.¹ It would not²:

1. threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders;
2. require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the

¹ See 10 CFR § 1021.410(b)(2)and(3)for full text of regulation.

² See 10 CFR Part 1021 Subpart D Appendix B (B(1)through(4)).

proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions;

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; or
4. adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)).

Therefore, this proposal meets the conditions that are integral elements of the class of actions in Appendix B, and application of Categorical Exclusion B1.23 is appropriate.

If changes are made to the project scope, or if the scope is expanded to encompass other actions, NEPA requirements will need to be reassessed at that time.

Signature: 

Jim Barrows

Title: NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 26 May 2010