**Department of Energy**
**National Nuclear Security Administration**
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

**Categorical Exclusion ID#:** PFO/CX-0009

**Proposed Action Title:** Zone 10 Asphalt Batch Plant Installation/Operation

**Program or Field Office:** DOE/NNSA/Pantex Field Office

**Location(s) (City/County/State):** Amarillo/Carson County/Texas

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## Proposed Action Description

This document analyzes the proposed installation and operation of an asphalt batch plant, owned by Gilgal Stones Consulting, LLC, on approximately 3.61 acres within Zone 10 at the Pantex Plant. The plant would provide an on-site source of asphalt to support mission-related construction and infrastructure projects, with a nominal capacity of ~20,000 tons per year that scales with project schedules.

The proposed site is previously disturbed industrial land, historically occupied by an inactive concrete batch plant, and lies adjacent to an active concrete batch plant. The structure and use are consistent with planning for industrial activities at Pantex and the site/scale of construction match those of adjacent facilities.

On-site production would reduce reliance on off-site shipments, improving quality by limiting transport time (reduced heat loss/material degradation). Contractor staffing changes would be negligible and motor vehicle traffic would not substantially increase; external deliveries would decrease compared to current off-site supply, reducing loads at security entry points.

Pantex would implement electric, water, and natural gas tie-ins to support operations; these are encompassed within the action and consistent with Zone 10 infrastructure.

**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:** DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (July 13, 2026), Appendix C, adopted pursuant to NEPA Section 109 on July 13, 2026.

L14: This categorical exclusion applies to new construction upon, or improvement of, land where all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The structure and proposed use are substantially in compliance with prevailing local planning and zoning standards.

(b) The site is on heavily developed property and/or located on a previously disturbed site in a developed area.

(c) The proposed use will not substantially increase the number of motor vehicles at the facility.

(d) The site and scale of construction are consistent with those of existing, adjacent, or nearby buildings.

Approved for public release. TCY

UNCLASSIFIED
This document has been reviewed by a DC/RO and has been determined to be UNCLASSIFIED, not UCNI, and contains no CUI based on current classification guidance. This review does not constitute a review for CUI outside of classification guidance and does not constitute clearance for Public Release.
Name: Tyler Yada
Date Reviewed: 10/22/2026
Pantex eDC/RO ID: 1013582

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**Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021**

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102, Appendix B to 10 CFR 1021, and also Section 5.4 and Appendices B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (July 13, 2026).

**To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, DOE shall determine the following:**

(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B or C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (February 2, 2026). To fit within these classes of actions a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of action in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures;

(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
(3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

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**NEPA Compliance Officer Determination**

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as a designated NNSA NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of actions in Appendix, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Date Determined:

Corrie Baker Digitally signed by Corrie Baker
Date: 2026.10.22 09:51:15
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# Department of Energy
## National Nuclear Security Administration
## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ANALYSIS**

This analysis demonstrates that the Proposed Action does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to environmentally sensitive resources and meets the other integral elements of Categorical Exclusion **L14 (New construction upon, or improvement of, land)** under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures.

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**Proposed Action:**

The U.S. Department of Energy / National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) proposes to authorize the installation and operation of a contractor-owned (Gilgal Stones Consulting, LLC) hot mix asphalt batch plant on approximately 3.61 acres within Zone 10 at the Pantex Plant (Project No. EXP-25-024-C). The plant will provide an on-site source of asphalt to support mission-related construction and infrastructure modernization projects, with a nominal capacity of approximately 20,000 tons per year (tpy) (rated maximum throughput up to 200 tons/hour; 155 tph drum mixer capacity) that scales with facility project schedules. The scope includes connecting to existing site utilities (electrical, domestic/process water, and natural gas or propane backup), installing an 850-gallon double-walled diesel fuel tank for the hot oil heater, installing secondary containment for fuels/hot oil, expanding the lot footprint slightly to the southwest, regrading and paving the 3.61-acre site, and installing mixing, conveying, screening, and baghouse air emissions control equipment.

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**Project Site Description:**

The proposed project site consists of approximately 3.61 acres of previously disturbed, heavily developed industrial land situated within Zone 10 of the Pantex Plant. The site was historically occupied by an inactive Vulcan Materials concrete batch plant and is located immediately adjacent to an active concrete batch plant facility. The property contains existing on-site road access, gravel staging pads, and adjacent utility infrastructure. Existing rock and aggregate stockpiles currently on site will be incorporated into the regrading activities. There are no wetlands, playas, floodplains, or undisturbed habitats within the 3.61-acre project boundary. Surrounding land use within Zone 10 is dedicated to heavy industrial operations, material fabrication, batch staging, and laydown yards consistent with Pantex mission support functions.

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**Application of Categorical Exclusion Elements:**

The Proposed Action meets DOE's general requirements for all categorical exclusions set forth in 10 C.F.R. § 1021.102 and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures Section 5.4, as well as the specific eligibility criteria for Categorical Exclusion L14.

General Categorical Exclusion Requirements:

10 C.F.R. § 1021.102 and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures Section 5.4 provide that for DOE to find a proposed action is categorically excluded under NEPA, DOE shall determine the following:

1. **There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.**
   The Proposed Action involves no extraordinary circumstances that may impact the significance of the environmental effects. Extraordinary circumstances are unique situations presented by specific proposals, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about environmental effects; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (10 C.F.R. § 1021.410(b)(2)). Operating an asphalt plant on previously developed industrial property utilizing standard baghouse particulate controls and permitted combustion limits presents well-characterized, routine environmental conditions with no unique or unknown risks.

2. **The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.**
The proposed action represents a standalone infrastructure support installation intended to supply paving materials for broad site maintenance and facility construction. It is not a segmented portion of a larger project designed improperly to evade comprehensive NEPA review, nor does it commit DOE/NNSA to future connected actions beyond normal, ongoing plant road and facility infrastructure maintenance.

3. **10 C.F.R. Part 1021, App. B (1–5) Integral Elements:**
To fit within the classes of actions eligible for categorical exclusion, a proposal must be one that would not:

   - **a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health:**
   The Proposed Action threatens no violations of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements. The facility operator holds an approved Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Standard Air Permit (Permit No. 180975, Project No. 396185, approved September 9, 2025) and will adhere to strict particulate, opacity (≤5%), fuel, and production limits. The operator is required to operate non-simultaneously with the adjacent concrete plant per TCEQ distance separation rules (Standard Permit General Requirement V). For stormwater discharges, the project will maintain coverage during construction under TPDES General Permit TXR150000 (implementing an approved SWPPP, posting Small Construction site notices, and conducting weekly inspections) and during operations under TPDES Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) TXR050000 for Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2951. An aboveground storage tank (AST) registration will be filed with TCEQ if tanks exceed threshold capacities, and backflow preventers will protect the domestic water line pursuant to 30 TAC § 290.44.
   - **b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities:**
   The Proposed Action is an industrial material manufacturing activity and does not involve the siting, construction, or major expansion of any off-site or on-site hazardous or radioactive waste storage, treatment, or disposal facilities.
   - **c. 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:**
   The site is not situated within an active Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) or SWMU extent, and no associated groundwater monitoring wells exist within 250 feet. Any unexpected SWMU soils or contaminated media encountered during earthwork would be managed and disposed of per approved Waste Operations Department (WOD) and SWMU interference protocols. Petroleum handling (e.g., the 850-gallon double-walled diesel tank, refueling operations) will require secondary containment catch pans, spill kits on site, and standard emergency reporting under Division 1600 specifications to prevent ground releases.
   - **d. Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including but not limited to:**
     - *i. Property of historic, archeological, or architectural significance:* The project is located within a previously disturbed industrial zone and does not impact any designated historic structures (e.g., Buildings 12-017, 11-020, etc.) or archeological resources eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
     - *ii. Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat; migratory birds:* No critical habitat exists on the 3.61-acre site. Migratory birds and Texas horned lizards are known to occur across Pantex. Standard administrative controls (scheduling outside the March–August nesting window where feasible, bird nest surveys prior to surface work, and immediate contact with the Pantex Environmental Compliance Department [ECD] Wildlife Biologist upon encountering lizards or active nests) ensure no adverse impact to protected fauna.
     - *iii. Floodplains and wetlands:* The site is not located within a 100-year floodplain, wetland, or playa lake boundary. Stormwater runoff will be controlled via dedicated perimeter berms,

straw wattles, and a retention/detention pond feature to prevent unpermitted runoff to surrounding areas or playa management units.

- *iv. Areas having special designation (parks, refuges, wilderness areas):* None exist within or adjacent to Zone 10.
- *v. Prime or unique farmland:* The parcel is heavily developed industrial land; no prime or unique farmland is affected.
- *vi. Special sources of water:* No sole-source aquifers or domestic water production wells exist within 500 feet of the site.
- *vii. Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests:* None present.

- **e. Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, noxious weeds, or invasive species:** The project does not involve genetically engineered organisms or invasive species introductions. Disturbed soil outside the plant operational boundaries will be reseeded per Master Specification Section 01600 (hydromulching prohibited).

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**Requirements for Categorical Exclusion L14 (New Construction / Improvement of Land):**

The Proposed Action meets all specific criteria for application of Categorical Exclusion L14 (DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, Appendix C, adopted pursuant to NEPA Section 109):

*L14 applies to new construction upon, or improvement of, land where all of the following conditions are met:*
*(a) The structure and proposed use are substantially in compliance with prevailing local planning and zoning standards;*
*(b) The site is on heavily developed property and/or located on a previously disturbed site in a developed area;*
*(c) The proposed use will not substantially increase the number of motor vehicles at the facility;*
*(d) The site and scale of construction are consistent with those of existing, adjacent, or nearby buildings.*

1. **Substantial compliance with local planning and zoning standards:**
   The asphalt batch plant is sited within Zone 10, an industrial use zone designated for plant support, fabrication, concrete batching, and material distribution. The structure, operation, and environmental permits comply directly with Pantex site master planning and applicable TCEQ standard rules.
2. **Located on heavily developed/previously disturbed property:**
   The 3.61-acre footprint is previously graded and disturbed land historically utilized for a concrete batch plant, surrounded by industrial roads and infrastructure.
3. **No substantial increase in motor vehicles:**
   Contractor operational staffing changes are negligible. On-site production directly displaces external, off-site commercial asphalt haul trucks that currently enter through security barricades, resulting in a net decrease in commercial traffic at external access control gates.
4. **Consistency of site and scale of construction:**
   The proposed asphalt plant (control center, drag slat conveyor, cold feed bins, baghouse, and double-barrel drum mixer) matches the height, footprint, and industrial character of the adjacent, co-located active concrete batch plant and nearby industrial facilities.