



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#: PFO/CX-0008

Proposed Action Title: Site Characterization Monitoring and General Research Activities for Pantex Plant for FY2027 and FY2028

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

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

Proposed Action Description

This NEPA document would be considered an "umbrella" document for Pantex Plant (Pantex) projects and activities pertaining to site characterization, monitoring, and general research. The activities would be conducted in accordance with guidance from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and other pertinent stakeholder agencies. Additional NEPA documentation, providing greater project detail, would be submitted for individual projects and would be tiered from the appropriate NEPA Review.

The scope of this umbrella document would cover on-site and off-site site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Specific activities include but are not limited to:

- Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing;
- Installation and operation of field instruments, such as stream-gauging or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools;
- Drilling and completion of wells for sampling and monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells;
- Conducting aquifer and underground reservoir response testing;
- Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment;
- Abandonment of field instruments, measuring tools or wells used for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone. Abandonment may also include removal of any surface construction materials such as protective well casings, surface pads, and

Approved for
Public Release.
TCY

UNCLASSIFIED
This document has been reviewed by a DC/RC and has been determined to be UNCLASSIFIED, not UCN, and contains no CUI based on current classification guidance. This review does not constitute a review for CUI outside of clearance for Public Release.
Name: Tyler Yada
Date Reviewed: 9/24/2026
Pantex eDC/RC ID: 1008035



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protective bollards;

- Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or other media for contaminants;
- Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams;
- Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities, including assessment of potential wind energy resources;
- Sampling of flora or fauna; and
- Identification of archeological, historic and cultural resources in compliance with 36 CFR Part 800 and 43 CFR Part 7.

All planned activities would be conducted in a manner that minimizes waste generation and maximizes recycling opportunities. This may include: consideration of alternative sampling and drilling techniques; recycling of excavated materials such as soil, water, and other debris; use of less toxic/hazardous materials in the smallest quantity; use of recycled materials whenever possible to support sustainable acquisition goals; and prevention of spills.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied: 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, B3.1 Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring, B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources, B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory, and pilot projects, and B3.8 Outdoor terrestrial ecological and environmental research.

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 (February 2, 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 action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met,



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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: 2026.09.24 13:07:06 -05'00'