



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Joint BioEnergy Institute Lease and Operations of Greenhouses at UC Davis LB-CX-13-09

Program or Field Office: Berkeley Site Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Berkeley, California

Proposed Action Description:

The Department of Energy proposes to extend the existing lease for the use and operation of greenhouses at UC Davis. The greenhouses provide space and controlled growth conditions for rice, Arabidopsis, switchgrass, tobacco, and other plants.

The lease with UC Davis permits Joint BioEnergy Institute (JBEI) to have greenhouses installed on University land as depicted in Attachment A (Greenhouse Location), together with ingress and egress, so that JBEI can conduct scientific research at the Greenhouse Location.

The goal of this project is to aid in the advancement of research on the cell wall structure of biomass model crops.

This project directly supports DOE's mission theme of Scientific Discovery and Innovation, and enables transformational science by providing infrastructure that would accelerate progress in the development and evaluation of plant feedstocks for sustainable bioenergy production.

The previous lease and operations were determined to be categorically excluded and so documented in the CX LB-ER-10-01.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

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.

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.

Program Point of Contact: Kim Abbott *K. Abbott* Date Determined: *9/5/13*

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), 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: *Gary S. Hartman* Date Determined: *9/5/2013*

Attachment A

Attachment A - Greenhouse Location

