

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

SECTION A. Project Title: Furthering Oregon State University Research Challenges Through Reactor Upgrade Investment – Oregon State University

SECTION B. Project Description

Oregon State University (OSU) proposes to maintain the operational capacity factor of its TRIGA® Reactor (OSTR) by obtaining spare parts for items that, if spares were unavailable, could potentially cause a prolonged outage. OSU will purchase two uncompensated ion chambers, three control rod drive mechanisms, and spare power channel electronics for the purpose of continued reliable operation of the OSTR; refurbish four high-purity germanium detectors for the purpose of continued reliable performance of neutron activation analysis; and purchase two 3D printers for the purpose of producing sample irradiation tubes needed for continued reliable irradiation of samples in the OSTR. The OSTR is a valuable and reliable research facility that is utilized by university faculty and students as well as users from around the world and has expressed its willingness to serve as a partner facility through the Nuclear Science User Facilities (NSUF) Partnership Program.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact

The university has procedures in place to handle any waste that will be generated through this project. The action would not create additional environmental impacts above those already occurring at the university.

SECTION D. Determine the Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s): Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

Note: For Categorical Exclusions (CXs) the proposed action must not: 1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE orders; 2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; 3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; 4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist which would affect the significance of the action, and the action is not “connected” nor “related” (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and (2), respectively) to other actions with potentially or cumulatively significant impacts.

References: B1.31 Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.

B2.2 Installation of, or improvements to, building and equipment instrumentation (including, but not limited to, remote control panels, remote monitoring capability, alarm and surveillance systems, control systems to provide automatic shutdown, fire detection and protection systems, water consumption monitors and flow control systems, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).

Justification: The activity consists of the purchase and installation/ refurbishment of spare reactor parts to ensure operational reliability.

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) Yes No

Approved by Jason Anderson, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer, on 07/23/2021.