

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

SECTION A. Project Title: Development of Thermo-Acoustic Sensors for Sodium-cooled Fast Reactors - Westinghouse Electric Company LLC

SECTION B. Project Description

Westinghouse will conduct research and development on developing self-powered, wireless Thermo-Acoustic Sensors capable of measuring local temperature and neutron flux in a Sodium-cooled Fast Reactor. The work will consist of the design, construction and testing on a small, laboratory scale sodium existing facility at Argonne National Laboratory.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact

The project will use small amounts of sodium during the testing of the sensors. All sodium materials and waste will be managed in accordance with existing laboratory procedures.

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: B3.6 Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for small-scale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial development.

Justification: The activity consists of R&D to design, construct and test thermo-acoustic sensors for the potential use in sodium – cooled reactors. Existing facilities will be used for all activities.

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

Approved by Jack Depperschmidt, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on 11/10/2014