

# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

**SECTION A. Project Title: Validation Data for Depressurized and Pressurized Conduction Cooldown – George Washington University**

**SECTION B. Project Description**

George Washington University proposes to study the behavior of a Very High Temperature Gas Reactor during a Depressurized Conduction Cooldown (DCC) event and during a Pressurized Conduction Cooldown (PCC) event during normal operations. Both of these phenomena will be studied by a combination of in-situe velocity field, pressure, and temperature measurements, coupled with computational fluid dynamic simulation. Five tests will be conducted using an integral effect test loop (IETL).

**SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact**

The research would involve using a tracer to evaluate velocities in the IETL. 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: 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 using an IETL to study conduction cooldown events for research purposes.

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 11/19/2013