

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

SECTION A. Project Title: In-core Neutron Detectors for The University of Texas at Austin TRIGA Reactor

SECTION B. Project Description

The University of Texas (UT) proposes to upgrade the in-core neutron detector instrumentation within the 1.1MW TRIGA reactor at the Nuclear Engineering Laboratory. To accomplish this, UT will purchase a wide range neutron flux channel, a series of self-powered neutron detectors for monitoring the flux in experimental locations, and associated electronics.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact

Radioactive Material Use – This work will put new detectors within the University of Texas TRIGA reactor. Testing these detectors will require operation of the nuclear reactor which includes radioactive material.

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.

Justification: The activity consists of purchasing equipment for research and educational 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 10/24/13