

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

SECTION A. Project Title: Upgrading the Walthousen Reactor Critical Facility to Support Research, Teaching, and Education at the Reactor – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

SECTION B. Project Description

The project objective is to increase the research, teaching, and education capabilities of the Walthousen Reactor Critical Facility at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A pulsed neutron source will be inserted into the core of the reactor. Additionally, RPI will acquire 2 DAQ computers, two iPads, four pico-ampere meters, and key parts of the control rod drive and water flow system will be replaced.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact

The action consists of funding the purchase of additional pieces of equipment and instruments that the university all ready uses for an existing program. The work related to the reactor is covered by RPI's NRC license.

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: 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, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).

RPI NRC License CX-22

Justification: The activity consists of purchasing and upgrading equipment for operational, 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 5/21/2012