

**SECTION A. Project Title: Imaging Upgrades for the Colorado School of Mines Nuclear Science and Engineering Program – Colorado School of Mines**

**SECTION B. Project Description**

This project has three objectives:

1. Upgrade the Transmission Electron Microscope in the Active Materials Characterization Laboratory (ActMCL) with a digital imaging system
2. Upgrade the ActMCL and Nuclear Fuel Development Lab (NFDL) with modern radiation detection and measurement equipment, for both research and radiological control purposes
3. Upgrade the Nuclear Science and Engineering Computer Laboratory (NSECL) to provide dedicated cluster computing, 3-D visualization, and 3-D printing capabilities

The instrument acquisition will enhance the capabilities of the Colorado School of Mines Nuclear Science and Engineering Program to perform experimental and computational studies of nuclear materials.

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

The action consists of funding the purchase of equipment and instruments for an existing program. 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 purchasing equipment to be used in nuclear material research.

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 11/28/2011