U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Nuclear Energy
National Environmental Policy Act
Determination

NEPA Identification.: DOE-ID-26-015

Proposed Action Title: Holtec Pioneer 1 and 2 First Mover Project Long-Lead Item Procurements

Location(s) (City/County/State): Palisades Nuclear Generating Station site, Covert, Michigan

Proposed Action Description:

Holtec Government Services, LLC (Holtec) plans to deploy two SMR-300 reactors at the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station site in Covert, Michigan. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selected Holtec for funding under the Generation III+ Small Modular Reactor (Gen III+ SMR) Pathway to Deployment solicitation (DE-FOA-0003485) to support the near-term demonstration of Gen III+ SMR technologies.

Over the course of the pending Agreement, Holtec will initiate long-lead item procurements necessary to ensure the project deployment schedule. Long lead procurements are required to commence ahead of construction due to the lengthy lead times associated with some equipment. Further, the design information for engineered equipment affects downstream activities for construction scheduling and final design. DOE will provide cost share for the procurements.

These long lead procurements support the purchase or fabrication of equipment, including reactor pressure vessels, reactor lower internals, pressurizers, containment enclosure structure modules, passive core cooling accumulators, once-through steam generators, reactor upper internals, instrumentation and controls (I&C) distributed control systems, control rod drive systems, reactor coolant pumps, fuel handling bridge cranes, passive core cooling sump strainers, nuclear instrumentation systems, pressurizer heaters, and steam turbines.

The long-lead material procurements covered by this contract will be stored at either a Holtec or vendor facility until the purchased or fabricated equipment is fully fabricated. The majority of equipment included within the pending Agreement will not be fully fabricated as a part of this award with the exception of containment enclosure structure modules, Inconel tubing for steam generators, and pressurizer heaters. Pressurizer heaters and Inconel tubing will be stored at Holtec's Advanced Manufacturing Division (AMD) facility in Camden, NJ, in preparation for final fabrication activities for the pressurizers and steam generators, respectively. Containment enclosure structure modules will be stored at a Holtec facility once fabricated. No ground disturbance or facility modifications are required to store purchased equipment as a part of this award. Some equipment may be fabricated by Holtec, within their manufacturing facilities, utilizing existing processes and services.

DOE's proposed action does not evaluate or authorize future construction activities or operations related to the SMR-300 reactor deployment, which will require further review under the National Environmental Policy Act by the relevant federal agencies.

Potential Environmental Impacts:

There are no substantial environmental impacts related to the proposed action.

DOE has determined that the proposed action has no reasonably foreseeable impacts that would cause effects under Section 106 of the NHPA and have "No Potential to Cause Effects" to historic properties per 36 CFR §800.3(a)(1).

Waste streams are routed to existing permitted off-site disposal, treatment, or wastewater facilities.

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References: B1.24 "Property transfers" and B1.31 "Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment"

B1.24: Transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in personal property (including, but not limited to, equipment and materials) or real property (including, but not limited to, permanent structures and land), provided that under reasonably foreseeable uses (1) there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment and (2) the covered actions would not have the potential to cause a significant change in impacts from before the transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests.

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.

The proposal fits within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures and satisfies the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions therein. The proposal does not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B.

There is no extraordinary circumstance related to the proposal that is likely to cause a reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effect or for which DOE does not know the environmental effect. Extraordinary circumstances are unique situations presented by specific proposals, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. However, segmentation does not include proposals that are developed and potentially implemented over multiple phases where each phase results in a decision whether to proceed to the subsequent phase.

Based on my review of the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

All other scope included in the pending Agreement with Holtec, to include the proposed design, licensing, and cost estimation efforts, is excepted from NEPA review in accordance with the below exception.

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A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination: Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

JASON ANDERSON

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