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ates Government

Department of Energy

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DATE

OCT 10 11 59 AM '91

Rocky Flats Office

memorandum

ROCKY FLATS
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

ACTION

DIST. LTR ENC

BENJAMIN, A.		
BRETZKE, J.C.		
BURLINGAME, A.H.		
COPP, B.D.		
CROUCHER, D.W.		
DAVIS, J.G.		
EVERED, J.E.	X	X
FERRERA, D.W.		
FERRIS, L.R.		
FRAIKOR, F.J.		
FRANCIS, G.E.		
GOODWIN, R.		
HANNI, B.J.		
HEALY, T.J.		
IDEKER, E.H.		
JENS, J. P.		
KERSH, J.M.	X	X
KIRBY, W.A.		
KRIEG, D.		
KUESTER, A.W.		
LEE, E.M.		
MAJESTIC, J.R.		
MARX, G.E.		
MATHEWS, T.A.		
MEURRENS, B.E.		
MORGAN, R.V.		
PIZZUTO, V.M.		
POTTER, G.L.		
SAFFELL, B.F.		
SANDLIN, N.B.		
SWANSON, E.R.		
WIEBE, J.S.		
WILKINSON, R.B.		
WILSON, J.M.		
YOUNG, E.R.		
ZANE, J.O.		

OCT 09 1991

ERD: PMP:5586

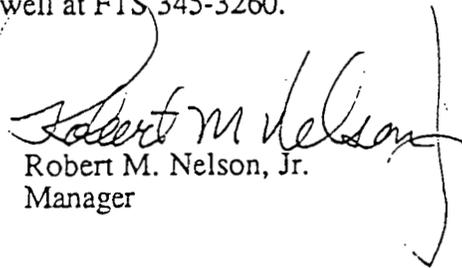
Section D Categorical Exclusion (RFO/CX021-91) Determination

C. J. Borgstrom, EH-25

Attached is a categorical exclusion (CX) for the following proposed action:

Wash and remelt uranium chips.

Please review the CX and indicate your concurrence in the space provided. Please return a copy of the document to this office after it has been signed. Questions about the CX may be directed to Tricia Powell at FTS 345-3260.



Robert M. Nelson, Jr.
Manager

Attachment

- cc w/Attachment:
- M. Mitchell, DP-6
- T. Pflaum, DP-9
- A. Dasti, DP-22
- S. Nesta. EG&G/RF

Nesta	X	X
Hick	X	X

CORRES CONTROL	X	X
TRAFFIC		

Reviewed for Addressee
Corres. Control/RFP

10-10-91 *Cia*

DATE BY

Ref Ltr #

ADMIN RECORD

A-SW-001234

**SECTION D DETERMINATION
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION RFO/CX021-91**

Proposed Action: Wash and Remelt Uranium Chips

Location: Building 447, Rocky Flats Plant, Golden, CO

Proposed by: U.S. Department of Energy, Rocky Flats Office

Description of the Proposed Action:

Rocky Flat Office proposes to purchase and install a centrifugal washer and dryer in Building 447 for cleaning depleted uranium chips. Use of the centrifugal washer and dryer would allow recycling of the uranium and reduce the amount of low level waste generated by RFP by approximately 23 drums per month. Installation of the equipment will require about four months and cost approximately \$150,000.

Currently, uranium chips, which are cuttings resulting from manufacturing processes, are initially raked out of cutting oil/cooling solution into 55 gallon drums where the excess oil is allowed to drain off. The chips are steam cleaned and then roasted to an oxidized state in a furnace in Building 444. The oxidized chips are drummed and disposed of as low level waste.

After installation of the centrifugal washer and dryer, the drained chips would be washed with an aqueous solution and detergent to remove as much remaining oil as possible and spun dry. The cleaned chips would be pressed to reduce their volume, melted in a crucible in the Building 444 furnace, and poured into ingots. The ingots are to be stored until they can be reused as feed stock. Small amounts of chips generated from special projects may still be oxidized when the volume is too small to warrant washing and remelting. It is estimated that an average of eight drums of depleted uranium chips per day are generated when the plant is in production.

All cutting oils and wash solutions will be recycled. When the wash solution becomes saturated, it will be released into the process waste transfer system.

Installation of the centrifugal washer and dryer in Building 447 will require the relocation of an existing sink and installation of additional water and process waste lines to serve the equipment.

Existing safety procedures will be modified and training for the new process will be developed before the new process is used.

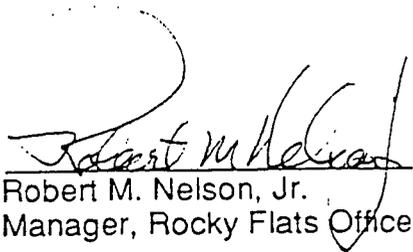
Categorical Exclusion to be applied:

This activity is a general plant project such as road and parking area resurfacing, modifications to heating-ventilating-air conditioning systems, minor alterations of existing buildings, and other similar projects where: (1) The projects are located within previously developed areas and will not affect environmentally sensitive areas such as archaeological sites, critical habitats, floodplains, and wetlands and (2) the projects are not part of a proposed action that is or may be the subject of an EA or EIS. (DOE NEPA Guidelines, 52 FR 47668).

DOE NEPA REGULATIONS SECTION D DETERMINATION
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION - RFO/CX 021-91
Wash and Remelt Uranium Chips

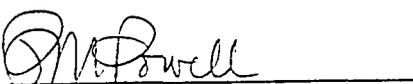
I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion as defined in the Section D of the DOE NEPA Guidelines. Therefore, I approve the categorical exclusion of the proposed action from further NEPA review and documentation.

Date: 10/8/91

Signature: 
Robert M. Nelson, Jr.
Title: Manager, Rocky Flats Office

I have reviewed this determination and find that a categorical exclusion is the appropriate level of NEPA documentation.

Date: July 9, 1991

Signature: 
Patricia M. Powell
Title: NEPA Compliance Officer

EH-25 has reviewed this determination and has no objection.

Date: _____

Signature: _____
Carol J. Borgstrom
Title: Director, Office of NEPA Oversight