



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Project Title: Removal and Sequestration of Heavy Metals using Constructed Wetlands – 20 Years of Performance

Program or Field Office: Savannah River Site

Location(s) (City/County/State): Aiken/Aiken/South Carolina

Proposed Action or Project Description:

This study will investigate metal removal by the A-01 Constructed Wetlands at the Savannah River Site by comparing previously collected long-term data with newly collected data. This study will confirm metal removal from the A-01 wetland, evaluate metal distribution in the wetland sediment profile after 20 years, assess metal mobility and retention in the wetland sediment, determine the Influence of organic matter generation (floc) on metal bioavailability and retention, and synthesize new data with previously collected data to assess changes in processes that affect long-term wetland performance. The following tasks will be performed: 1) collection and analysis of surface water samples, collection and analysis of sediment core samples, deployment of Diffusive Gradient in Thin Films (DGT) probes to measure bioavailable metals in water and sediment, and collection and analysis of floc samples. Analyses will include characterization of physical properties of water and sediment and ICP-MS analyses of surface water, sediment pore water, and DGT extracts.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.6 - Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

- There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- This proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or § 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.
- All of the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021 would be met. This proposal would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; 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; 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; have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021; 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.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), 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.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **Tracy L. Williams** Digitally signed by Tracy L. Williams
Date: 2020.01.06 09:11:21 -05'00'

Date Determined: 12/30/2019

Comments: TC-A-2019-0069, Rev. 0