



**Facility Alteration or Construction Project
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review Form**

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

I. General Information

Title of Project RTP Main Campus Laboratory Renovations		Project Number
Project Officer's Name Jody Kane	Project Officer's Title Real Estate Specialist	Phone Number 202-564-3766
Project Location <i>(street address/city/state/ZIP code)</i> 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711	Conducted on EPA Facility? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <i>(if yes, provide name of facility)</i> RTP Main Campus Laboratory	
Project Description <i>(attach pages as needed)</i> Renovations to existing laboratory facilities in main building wings A, B, D, and E.		

II. Responsible Official for NEPA Review

For projects funded and managed by the Architecture, Engineering, and Asset Management Branch (AEAMB), the Responsible Official is the Chief of AEAMB; otherwise, the Responsible Official is the individual who authorizes/funds and manages the project administratively at the Division, Regional, Program, or Facility level (e.g., Division Director, Laboratory Director).

Name William Ridge	Title Chief, AEAMB	Phone Number 202-564-2165
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III. EPA Contact for Environmental Review on this Project (If different from Responsible Official)

Name Rob Lee	Title Program Analyst	Phone Number 202-564-2162
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IV. Categorical Exclusion (CX)

Action is not eligible for CX. Check this box if the proposed action is not eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CX) either because the action involves significant new construction or is considered a major project (i.e., not minor); therefore, an EA or EIS is the appropriate level of review planned. If this box is checked, skip the remainder of Section IV and complete Section V.B, *EA or EIS Determination*. If this box is not checked, answer the following questions in Sections IV.A through IV.C to document the proposed action is eligible for a CX. After completion of Section IV, obtain the Responsible Official's Signature in Section V.

IV.A. CX Eligibility *(Check YES or NO)* If the answer to either of the following questions is **YES** and no Extraordinary Circumstances are identified (determined by completing Section IV.B. of this form), then the action is eligible for a CX pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1). If the answer to both of the following questions is **NO**, it is recommended the preparer reference the attached guidelines to determine whether the action falls into one of the categorical exclusions identified under 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(2).

YES NO

- a. Does the action involve routine facility maintenance, repair, and grounds-keeping; minor rehabilitation, restoration, renovation, or revitalization of existing facilities; functional replacement of equipment; acquisition and installation of equipment; or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities? (See 40 CFR §6.204(a)(1)(i)).
- b. Does the action involve: existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities? This category does not include actions that: involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water; will likely result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water; will provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; are not supported by the state or other regional growth plan or strategy; or directly or indirectly involve or relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development. (See 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii)).

IV.B. Extraordinary Circumstances Evaluation *(Check YES or NO)* In selecting a response to the following questions, the preparer must have sufficient knowledge and/or data to support the answer with certainty. If the preparer is unsure of the answer to any of the following questions, an Environmental Professional should be consulted to conduct additional research.

YES NO

- a. Is the action known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
- b. Is the action known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities?
- c. Is the action known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat?
- d. Is the action known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with naturally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places?
- e. Is the action known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat?

YES NO

- f. Is the action known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects?
- g. Is the action known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population, including altering the character of existing residential areas or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans?
- h. Is the action known or expected to cause significant public controversy about potential environmental impacts of the proposed action?
- i. Is the action known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts?
- j. Is the action known or expected to conflict with federal, state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations?

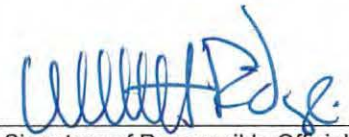
IV.C. Extraordinary Circumstances Statement (Check ONLY ONE box) If a NO response was recorded for each of the questions in Section IV.B., then no Extraordinary Circumstances are present pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b) and one of the following statements should be selected. If a YES response was indicated for one or more Extraordinary Circumstance in Section IV.B., skip this section and proceed to Section V.

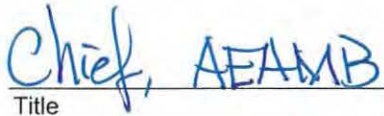
- a. To the best of my knowledge and with a strong level of certainty, **no extraordinary circumstances apply** to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). This statement is based on either past experience with similar actions **at the proposed action site** resulting in a CX and/or information gathered as part of previous NEPA or environmental due diligence review conducted **at the proposed action site**.
- b. A statement and supporting documentation is attached explaining why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b).

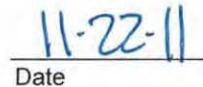
V. NEPA Review Determination and Responsible Official Signature

Sections I. through IV. must be completed to satisfy EPA's documentation requirements for CX eligibility. If completion of this form indicates that a CX does apply, the Responsible Official must sign under Section V.A. If completion of this form indicates that a CX does not apply, the Responsible Official must sign under Section V.B. below and indicate whether an EA or EIS is required. It is recommended that an Environmental Professional be retained or consulted to determine the appropriate level of NEPA review for the action under Section V.B.

V.A. Categorical Exclusion Determination As the Responsible Official, I have determined that this action is **eligible for a Categorical Exclusion** per the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.204. Section IV.C. of this form has been completed providing the required extraordinary circumstances statement.


Signature of Responsible Official


Title


Date

V.B. EA or EIS Determination (Check the appropriate box below) This action is not eligible for a CX based on the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.204, therefore:

- As the Responsible Official, I have determined that an **Environmental Assessment (EA)** should be prepared for this project pursuant to the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.205.
- As the Responsible Official, I have determined that an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** should be prepared for this project pursuant the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR §6.207.

Signature of Responsible Official

Title

Date

**National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion – Extraordinary Circumstances
Statement**

RTP Main Campus Laboratory Renovations

at

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

October 18, 2011

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ensures that environmental impacts and associated public concerns are considered in making decisions on federal actions. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to renovate laboratory rooms and spaces in main building wings A, B, D, and E at the Research Triangle Park (RTP) research campus.

The EPA campus located in RTP, a suburban research park located in Durham, North Carolina. This is EPA's largest campus, housing over 2,000 employees from many disciplines across the EPA. The main campus currently covers nearly 1.5 million square feet adjacent to a man-made water feature. The main campus facility was constructed in 1995. A NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the construction of the main campus (this EA is henceforth referred to as the *RTP Campus EA*).

The proposed RTP Main Campus Laboratory Renovations (henceforth referred to as the "proposed action") are to occur in all floors (1st through 5th) of Wings A, B, D, and E over three phases. All modifications in the proposed action are to internal space; no external space will be affected. The proposed action contains upgrades to mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and architectural systems; some demolition of existing infrastructure will occur to accommodate the proposed upgrades. Typical mechanical activities include the removal and replacement of fume hoods, the removal of existing supply volume boxes and exhaust volume boxes, the installation of new variable air volume (VAV) supply air terminal box and controls, and the installation of new ductwork. Typical plumbing activities include the installation of new fixtures and the reworking of water and gas piping. Typical electrical activities include the replacement and installation of receptacles and electrical connections. Typical architectural activities include the removal and replacement of doors and laboratory casework.

Extraordinary Circumstances Statement

The following satisfies the extraordinary circumstances statement requirement of Section IV.C.b. of the attached *Facility Alteration or Construction Project NEPA Review Form* for the project titled "RTP Main Campus Laboratory Renovations," pursuant to 40 CFR §§6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). No extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action because of the following:

1. The proposed action will not change the existing building footprint, as all proposed renovations are within the existing building envelope. There will be no significant adverse air quality effects. The proposed action, which includes mechanical upgrades to existing heating, ventilation, or air conditioning (HVAC) systems, will not significantly

change the load of the Central Utility Plant (CUP), and will not significantly affect the air emissions of the campus. The design of the original facility HVAC system carefully considered the placement of air intakes and exhausts with respect to the potential of entrainment of contaminants from laboratories, animal care areas, and the CUP (*RTP Campus EA* Section 5.1). Mitigation measures to reduce potential air impacts related to construction activities will be implemented as conditions necessitate.

2. The proposed action will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources such as historic buildings or buildings eligible for historic listing.
3. The proposed action will not significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas, wetlands, floodplains, or endangered or threatened species. Measures will be taken to reduce stormwater, soil and sediment, and noise impacts resulting from the construction activities.
4. The proposed action will not cause significant public controversy and is cost effective.
5. The proposed action will not significantly impact the human environment.

Documents Reviewed

The following documents were reviewed and assisted in this NEPA determination:

1. *EPA Research & Administration Facility, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, Environmental Assessment*, dated November 1994, prepared by Jason M. Cortell and Associates Inc., Waltham, MA.
2. *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Bridging Documents for Laboratory Space Allocation Plan, US EPA RTP Facility, 65% Review Submission*, dated July 12, 2011, prepared by SSOE, Durham, NC.