



Department of Energy

Argonne Site Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

JUN 09 2014

Dr. Peter B. Littlewood
Director, Argonne National Laboratory
President, UChicago Argonne, LLC
9700 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Dr. Littlewood:

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) DETERMINATION FOR
ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY (ARGONNE)

The Argonne Site Office (ASO) has approved the following as a categorical exclusion (CX) under Appendix B (to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Integrated DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, December 1996), Category B 1.3 "Routine maintenance activities including repair of road embankments, erosion control and soil stabilization measures, among others" applicable to:

- Sawmill Creek Stream Bank Erosion (ASO-CX-305)

Therefore, no further NEPA review is required. However, if any modification or an expansion of the scope is made to the above project, additional NEPA review will be necessary.

Enclosed please find a copy of the approved Environmental Review Form (ERF) for the project.

If you have any questions, please contact Kaushik Joshi of my staff at (630) 252-4226.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanna M. Livengood".

Joanna M. Livengood
Manager

Enclosure:
As Stated

cc: J. Stauber, ANL, w/encl.
M. Finder, ANL, w/encl.
P. Rash, ANL, w/encl.
K. Joshi, ASO, w/encl.
M. McKown, SC-CH, w/encl.
P. Siebach, SC-CH, w/encl.



Environmental Review Form for Argonne National Laboratory

Project/Activity Title: Sawmill Creek Stream Bank Erosion


ASO NEPA Tracking No. 1871 ASO-CX-305 **Type of Funding:** Operating

B&R Code _____

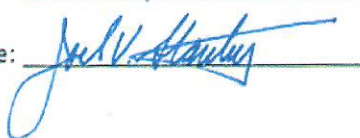
Identifying number: _____ **WFO proposal #** _____ **CRADA proposal #** _____

Work Project # _____ **ANL accounting # (item 3a in Field Work Proposal)** _____

Other (explain) Facility Maintenance

Project Manager: Philip C. Rash **Signature:**  **Date:** 5-29-14

NEPA Owner: Michael P. Finder **Signature:**  **Date:** 5-29-2014

ANL NEPA Reviewer: Joel V. Stauber **Signature:**  **Date:** 5/29/14

I. Description of Proposed Action:

GENERAL

Recent beaver activity created a dam in Sawmill Creek, detaining water in the waterway. This waterway is considered Waters of the State. Storm events in the late winter and early spring, have generated high water levels in the creek. Water going over the beaver dam has eroded part of the south creek embankment near Building 125. The resultant erosion caused a large tree to slide into the creek, exacerbating the erosion and has created a safety hazards for area users. Over time it could impact Laboratory operations in the area including the potential damage to Building 125.

The beavers have been removed from the area by the USDA.

SPECIFIC

- 1) A majority of the dam will be removed by mechanical means.
- 2) The dam and some fallen trees larger than 6" in diameter will be removed. The majority of the material will be left in the area. As necessary, some debris may be relocated to the Laboratory's mulch area. The majority of the dam will be removed from the north side of the creek but no excavations will take place into the stream bed.
- 3) On the south side of the creek where the tree sank into the creek, the loose earth spoils and the tree, a 12" cottonwood, will be removed to the water line. Without excavating below the normal creek level, the tree and loose debris will be removed and recycled.
- 4) The unstable embankment will be slightly regarded to improve stability. An erosion filter fabric will be laid on the disturbed embankment. Multiple layers of large, medium, and small rip-

rap will fill the void created by the erosion. The rip-rap will not be extended into the creek. The rock layer will start at the low water level of the creek and extend up to the top of the embankment. This height is about 12 feet. The width is about 5 feet.

5) Every effort will be made to keep debris from moving down stream during the repair activities.

II. Description of Affected Environment:

Without prompt stabilization, the embankment will continue to erode, discharging silt at minor levels into the creek. The erosion is creeping toward Building 125. Also, uncontrolled erosion downstream could impact the coal yard storage area in the next several years.

The area is previously disturbed due to original construction of the area.

III. Potential Environmental Effects: (Attach explanation for each "yes" response. See Instructions for Completing Environmental Review Form)

A. Complete Section A for all projects.

1. Project evaluated for Pollution Prevention and Waste Minimization opportunities and details provided under items 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 16, and 20 below, as applicable Yes X No

Excavated materials will be recycled and the back fill material may be recycled rip-rap.

2. Air Pollutant Emissions Yes No X
3. Noise Yes No X
4. Chemical/Oil Storage/Use Yes No X
5. Pesticide Use Yes No X
6. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Yes No X
7. Biohazards Yes No X
8. Effluent/Wastewater (If yes, see question #12 and contact Gregg Kulma (FMS-SEP) at 2-9147 or gkulma@anl.gov Yes X No

There is an existing storm water discharge that could be impacted if the erosion action continues.

9. Waste Management

- a) Construction or Demolition Waste Yes X No

The beaver dam will be partially removed from the creek. The material is proposed to be moved to an area near the creek in the flood stage area, where the material be spread. The excavated material from the south side of the creek, where backfilling will occur, will be removed and recycled at the clay storage areas.

- b) Hazardous Waste Yes No
- c) Radioactive Mixed Waste Yes No
- d) Radioactive Waste Yes No
- e) PCB or Asbestos Waste Yes No
- f) Biological Waste Yes No
- g) No Path to Disposal Waste Yes No
- h) Nano-material Waste Yes No

- 10. Radiation Yes No
- 11. Threatened Violation of ES&H Regulations or Permit Requirements Yes No
- 12. New or Modified Federal or State Permits Yes No

The partial removal of the beaver dam does not need a permit, per the Chicago Region of the US Corps of Engineers, as long as we do not dig into the creek bed and make every effort not to allow discharge into the creek. The backfilling of the eroded embankment will require a permit from the US Corps of Engineers. This permit is being prepared by Argonne.

- 13. Siting, Construction, or Major Modification of Facility to Recover, Treat, Store, or Dispose of Waste Yes No
- 14. Public Controversy Yes No
- 15. Historic Structures and Objects Yes No
- 16. Disturbance of Pre-existing Contamination Yes No
- 17. Energy Efficiency, Resource Conserving, and Sustainable Design Features Yes No

B. For projects that will occur outdoors, complete Section B as well as Section A.

- 18. Threatened or Endangered Species, Critical Habitats, and/or other Protected Species Yes No

19. Wetlands Yes X No

Although the edges of a stream are usually considered wetlands, this action will not excavate in the stream. A heavy track excavator will drive across a flat area near the edge of the creek. But only superficial damage is likely from the tracks of the machine. Any surface damage will be repaired with mulch and seed from adjacent areas.

20. Floodplain Yes X No

A portion of this action will impact the floodplain along Sawmill Creek. However, no permanent structures will be placed. Minor natural debris associated with the area will be spread in the flood plain.

21. Landscaping Yes X No

At the edge of the embankment, after the backfilling operations are complete, grass and shrubs will be planted on top of the embankment. Several trees have already collapsed into the stream and are contributing to the erosion problem. Trees that are greater than six inches in diameter will be cut down and removed.

22. Navigable Air Space Yes No X

23. Clearing or Excavation Yes X No

The beaver dam will be partially removed from the creek but no excavation will be allowed in the creek bed. However, as required for the backfilling of the embankment, some excavation and backfilling will extend below the "Ordinary High Water Mark."

24. Archaeological Resources Yes No X

25. Underground Injection Yes No X

26. Underground Storage Tanks Yes No X

27. Public Utilities or Services Yes No X

28. Depletion of a Non-Renewable Resource Yes No X

C. For projects occurring outside of ANL complete Section C as well as Sections A and B.

29. Prime, Unique, or Locally Important Farmland Yes No

30. Special Sources of Groundwater (such as sole source aquifer) Yes No

31. Coastal Zones Yes No

32. Areas with Special National Designations (such as National Forests, Parks, or Trails) Yes ___ No ___

33. Action of a State Agency in a State with NEPA-type Law Yes ___ No ___

34. Class I Air Quality Control Region Yes ___ No ___

IV. Subpart D Determination: (to be completed by DOE/ASO)

Are there any extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal? Yes ___ No X

Is the project connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts or related to other proposed action with cumulatively significant impacts? Yes ___ No X

If yes, is a categorical exclusion determination precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211? Yes ___ No ___

Can the project or activity be categorically excluded from preparation of an Environment Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement under Subpart D of the DOE NEPA Regulations? Yes X No ___

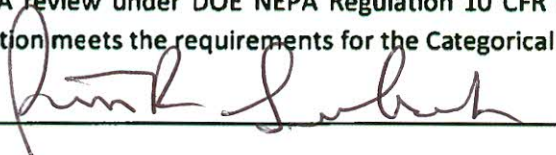
If yes, indicate the class or classes of action from Appendix A or B of Subpart D under which the project may be excluded. APPENDIX B, B 1.3 "Routine maintenance activities including repair of road embankments, erosion control and soil stabilization measures, among others."
If no, indicate the NEPA recommendation and class(es) of action from Appendix C or D to Subpart D to Part 1021 of 10 CFR.

ASO NEPA Coordinator Review: Kaushik Joshi

Signature:  Date: 6-6-2014

ASO NCO Approval of CX Determination:

The preceding pages are a record of documentation that an action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review under DOE NEPA Regulation 10 CFR Part 1021.400. I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion identified above.

Signature:  Date: 6/6/2014

Peter R. Siebach
Acting Argonne Site Office NCO

ASO NCO EA or EIS Recommendation: NOT APPLICABLE

Class of Action: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Peter R. Siebach
Acting Argonne Site Office NCO

Concurrence with EA or EIS Recommendation: NOT APPLICABLE

CH GLD: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ASO Manager Approval of EA or EIS Recommendation: NOT APPLICABLE

An EA EIS shall be prepared for the proposed _____ and

_____ shall serve as the document manager.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Dr. Joanna M. Livengood
Manager