

October 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

From: Joe Barger
NEPA Coordinator

Subject: Categorical Exclusion Addendum

Project Title: Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics (JILA) Modernization Planning and Design

Location: University of Colorado Boulder
2055 Regent Drive Boulder, Colorado

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is providing a congressionally directed funding grant for the JILA Modernization Planning and Design Project at the University of Colorado. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NIST conducted an environmental evaluation of this project and prepared a Categorical Exclusion Memorandum dated October 12, 2023 (attached).

NIST was subsequently notified by the University of Colorado of a change in scope for this project. The following change was reported:

Initial Scope of Work:

75 percent of this effort focused on planning and design...25 percent of funding used to replace critical mechanical components.

Revised Scope of Work:

25 percent of this effort will be focused on planning and design...75 percent of funding used to replace critical mechanical components.

Categorical Exclusion

NIST finds that the change in scope will have no impact on the categorical exclusion applied to this project. Department of Commerce Categorical Exclusion A1, *Minor renovations and additions to buildings, roads, airfields, grounds, equipment, and other facilities that do not result in a change in the functional use of the real property*, remains applicable to this project.

The proposed project: JILA Modernization Planning and Design remains categorically excluded from the need for further environmental review under NEPA. Any changes to the above project may require additional NEPA review.

Joe Barger
NIST NEPA Coordinator

10/08/2025

Date

Andrew Wright
NIST Chief Facilities Management Office

Date

Attachment A, Categorical Exclusion Memorandum, October 12, 2023