

**SECTION A. Project Title:** Fiber Optic Line Relocation North of IAB

**SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:**

**Proposed INL Fiber Optic Line Relocation North of IF-606 (INL Admin Building – IAB)**

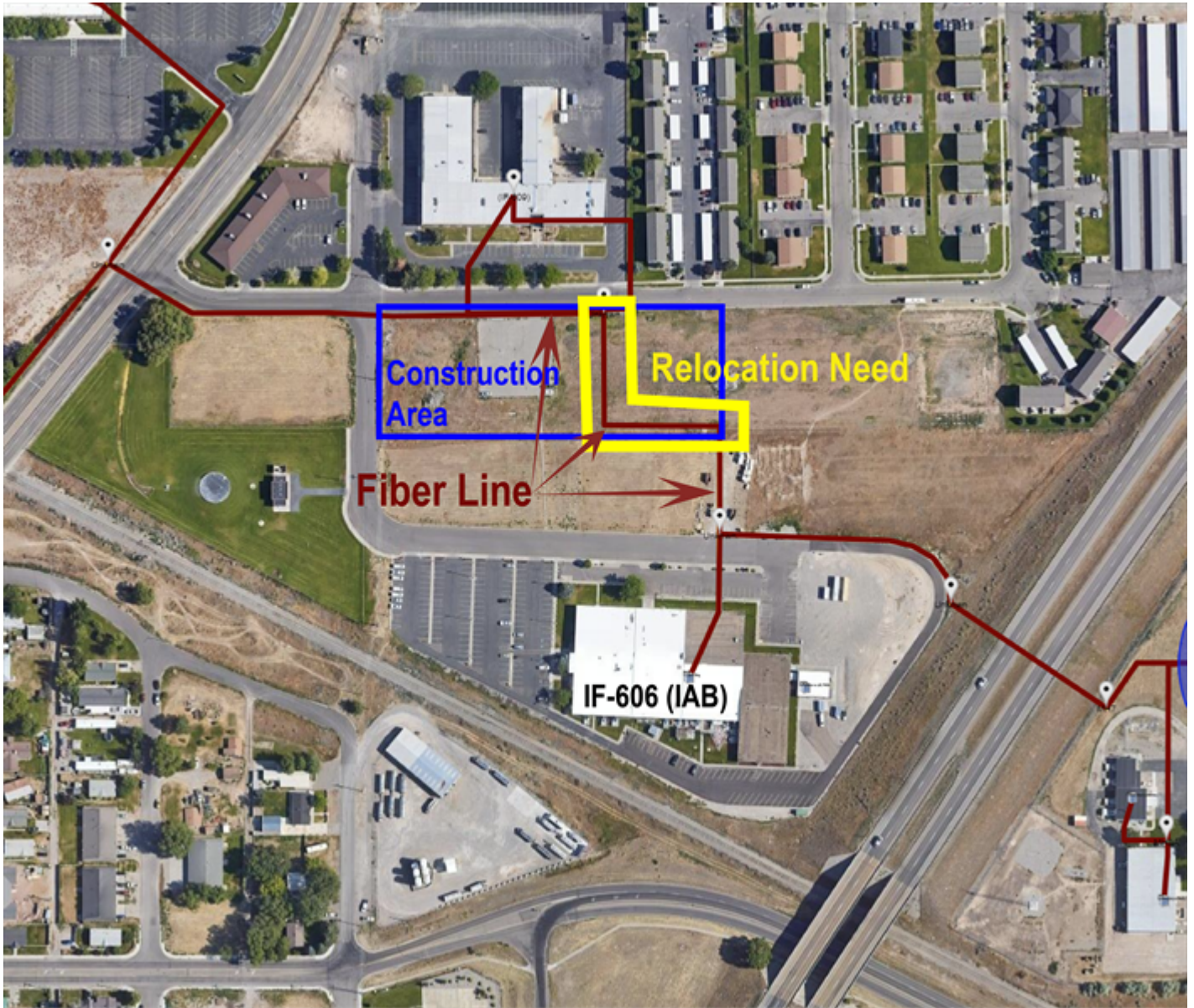
The Naval Reactor program is working with a land developer for the construction of an in-town facility to be located on a parcel of land north of IF-606 (INL Admin Building - IAB) shown in Figure 1. This parcel is privately owned. A portion of the redundant fiber optics communications line runs from IF-606 to the north, across the parcel of land currently under development, and ultimately connects to IF-654 (Engineering Research Office Building - EROB). The fiber optics line was installed across this parcel sometime between 1985 and 1990. Due to the level of development and the nature of the fiber optics line buried in this location, there is a need to relocate these lines prior to construction.

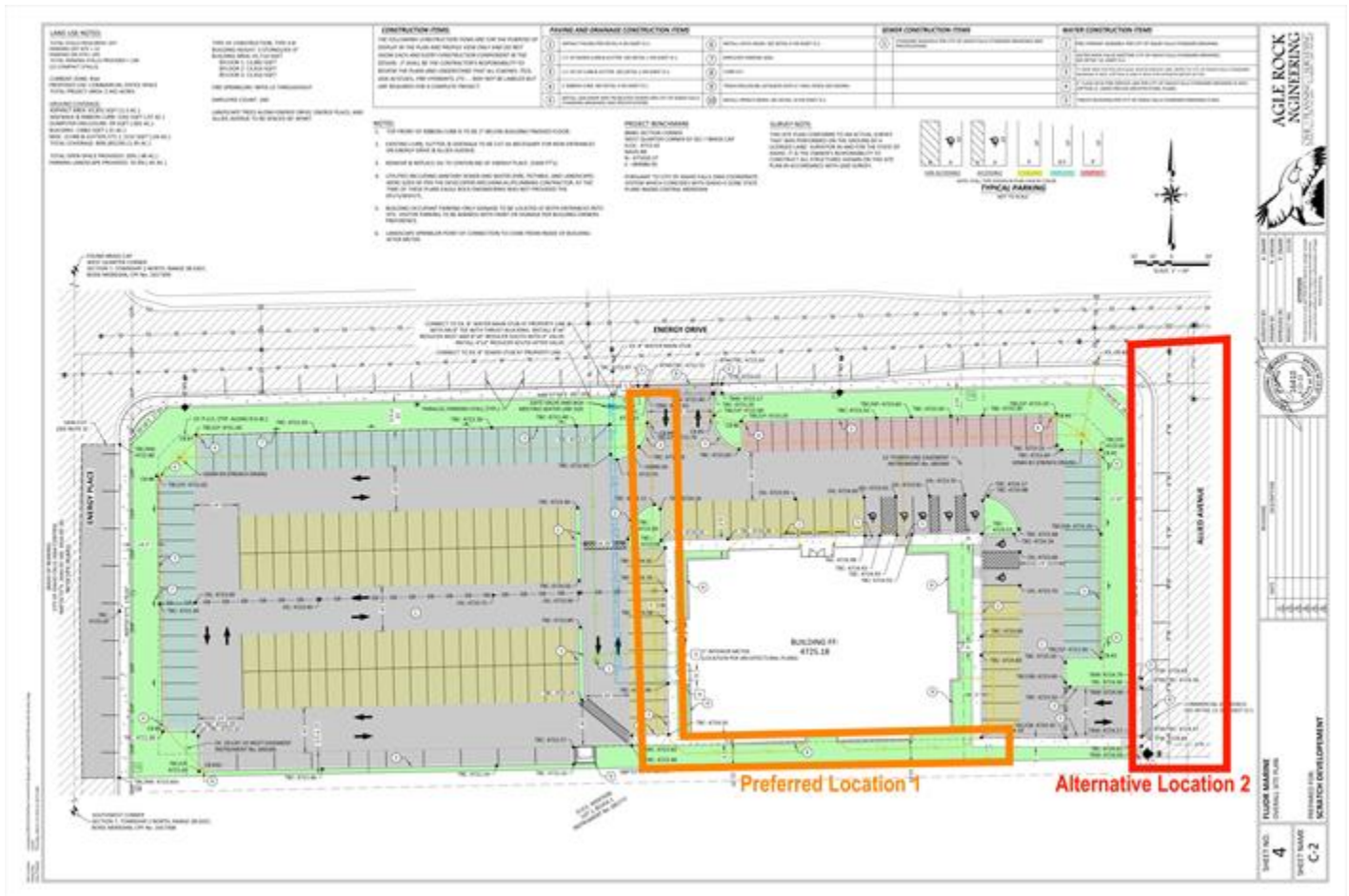
Through communications with the Developer two alternatives to meet the relocation needs have been identified (see Figure 2): first, a new trench for surface water drainage will be dug to the east of the current location of the fiber optics line. It is preferred that the relocation of the line be co-located with the drainage line, if the depth of the burial meets industry standards. Secondly, the less- preferred location, would be to co-locate with the City of Idaho Falls water line running south-north along Allied Avenue.

INL actions include coordinating the relocation of fiber optic line with the developer to prevent impacts to service and redundant connectivity at in-town facilities, providing new fiber optic cable, conduit and related materials for the new portions of line that cannot be relocated easily, drafting of a deed easement for the new location and any other necessary agreements related to the relocation, and continued support to the development of the Naval Reactor building construction. The Developer will be trenching the preferred location regardless of relocation of the fiber optics line.

INL Information Management staff will provide direct oversight to the relocation of fiber line; INL F&SS will provide strategic planning and logistics support between the City of Idaho Falls, Naval Reactors, the Developer, and the Department of Energy (DOE) Senior Counsel, will support the drafting of documents stating final location and easement agreements to the developer in coordinated effort with DOE legal counsel.

Development of the parcel in question is happening at present and requires a timely review of the proposed actions to relocate the fiber optic line within the drainage trench in coordination with the Developer.





**SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:**

**Air Emissions**

NA

**Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water**

NA

**Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources**

Biological: There is the potential for this work to impact vegetation and for project personnel to interact with various wildlife species. A nesting bird survey is required prior to the initiation of activities that might disturb soil or vegetation for activities taking place between April 1st and October 1st.

Cultural: This project involves pre-panning project activities (e.g., the purchasing of fiber-optic cable components), only. All other aspects of the project are the purview of other federal agencies (e.g., Department of Defense).

**Generating and Managing Waste**

NA

**Releasing Contaminants**

NA

**Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources**

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION  
Idaho National Laboratory

NA

**SECTION D. Determine Recommended Level of Environmental Review, Identify Reference(s), and State Justification:** Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

For Categorical Exclusions (CXs), the proposed action must not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, or similar requirements of Department of Energy (DOE) or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources (see 10 CFR 1021). In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist that would affect the significance of the action. In addition, the action is not "connected" to other action actions (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1608.27(b)(7)).

**References:** B4.7 "Fiber optic cable"

**Justification:** B4.7 Adding fiber optic cables to transmission facilities or burying fiber optic cable in existing powerline or pipeline rights-of-way. Covered actions may include associated vaults and pulling and tensioning sites outside of rights-of-way in nearby previously disturbed or developed areas.

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)  Yes  No

Approved by Jason L Anderson, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 11/8/2023