

**SECTION A. Project Title:** Carbon Free Power Project (CFPP) Site Restoration

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

The Carbon Free Power Project will be performing activities to complete site restoration as part of project termination. These activities are part of a cost-sharing Cooperative Agreement with DOE. Geotechnical testing/site characterization activities were completed in 2023 (These activities were addressed in INL-19-067 Revs 1-6). CFPP terminated the project at the end of 2023, and CFPP has been coordinating with DOE and INL to develop final site restoration plans.

In summary, the site restoration activities include removing of the CFPP surveillance camera assembly and associated power supply equipment, removal of the CFPP gravel parking area, grading/smoothing of that administrative area to match the surrounding area and prepare the area for revegetation, removal of two concrete pads which were installed along T-11 and T-3 to support geotechnical testing at CFPP, removal of all existing survey stakes, flags, poles, T-posts, signs, trash, concrete residuals, and any protruding rebar at bore hole locations – that is, removal of all materials and equipment which was installed as part of CFPP site investigation. Lastly, BEA will be performing revegetation of areas which were significantly disturbed by CFPP activities. The CFPP met tower and associated equipment was removed from the site May 14, 2024. This work scope was previously addressed in a revision of INL-19-067.

Specifically, the CFPP work scope entails the following three activities:

- Removal of the CFPP Administrative/Parking Area is planned to be completed by subcontractor personnel. The chain-link fencing materials will be removed and disposed of off-site. Heavy equipment (bulldozer, dump truck, skid steer, grader) will be used to remove all gravel and road base materials to original grad level. The removed materials will be excessed/disposed of (likely off-site).
- Two concrete pads (each 7' X 10' in area) that were installed to support geotechnical testing will be removed. One pad is located adjacent to the T-11 security roadway, and one pad is located adjacent to the T-3 security roadway.
- A general clean-up of the entire CFPP area will be performed to remove numerous survey stakes, flags, poles, T-posts, signs, etc., and any remaining equipment and concrete residuals. In addition, any protruding rebar from core boring locations will be cut off at ground level.

After the CFPP work scope is completed, it is planned that BEA will revegetate selected areas of the CFPP site that were significantly impacted by site investigation activities. This will likely involve reseeding areas with native grasses and planting sagebrush seedlings during the fall of 2024.

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

**Air Emissions**

Project activities have the potential to create fugitive dust.

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

No storm water concerns, this project is located outside of the boundary of the storm water corridor and therefore is not considered to have reasonable potential to discharge to “Waters of the U.S.”.

**Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources**

There is the potential for this work to impact vegetation and for project personnel to interact with various wildlife species. A Biological Resource Review will be arranged within two weeks prior to the initiation of any activities that might disturb soil or vegetation and again following completion of project activities. A nesting bird survey is included with the Biological Resource Review for actions occurring between April 1 - October 1 per compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Bat surveys are also included with the Biological Resource Review in accordance with the INL Bat Protection Plan.

Cultural: A Section 106 review was completed under CRMO project number (BEA-24-055) and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected.

**Generating and Managing Waste**

When wastes are generated, how they are disposed can adversely affect the environment. Managing wastes appropriately and responsibly and implementing recycling or reuse practices, where feasible, during project activities can reduce the potential impact on the environment.

**Releasing Contaminants**

When chemicals are used during the project there is the potential for spills that could impact the environment (air, water, soil).

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

NA

### Environmental Justice

According to the CEQ Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, the INL site as well as the Research and Education Campus in Idaho Falls, ID are located in U.S. Census tracts that are identified as disadvantaged communities. Census tracts identified as disadvantaged meet or exceed socioeconomic, environmental, health, or demographic thresholds identified by CEQ. Given that activities analyzed in this document will happen within the boundaries of existing DOE/INL land and/or facilities where there are no permanent residents, any impacts to Environmental Justice in surrounding communities are anticipated to be negligible.

**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:** B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring"

**Justification:** B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools); (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes); (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

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

Approved by Robert Douglas Herzog, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 6/27/2024