

**SECTION A. Project Title:** Cell Site #6 Expansion, Revision 2

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

**Revision 2:**

This revision of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Cell Site 6 (CS6) expansion at the Critical Infrastructure Test Range (CITRC) includes the following installations:

- Two (2) 50' tall wooden power poles to the east of existing pole 56-46-23. The first pole will be placed approximately 35' to the east and the second pole approximately 85' to the east.
- A 10kva pole mount transformer will be installed at the top of pole 56-46-23 and triplex power conductors routed to the first power pole. A conduit mast and weather head will be fastened to this power pole and terminated to a 100-amp panel mounted at a comfortable working level near the base of the pole. Power pole 56-46-23 and the first new power pole to the east will each require back guys to support the tension caused from the overhead triplex.
- A single RGS conduit and associated conductors will be routed from the 100-amp panel to the second wooden pole. Concrete blocks will be used to support the conduit between the poles. The conduit will be terminated to a 4-plex outdoor rated 120V receptacle mounted at a comfortable working level near the base of the second pole. Sponsor owned communications equipment will be mounted to this wooden pole.

In an effort to fully utilize the CS6 test bed capabilities, additional Sponsor owned equipment will need to be installed north of the test bed as part of Sponsor research and development activities. BEA Power Management and a local subcontractor will install components per the design documents.

Waste may include typical construction chemicals such as fuels, lubricants, adhesives, paints, etc.

Figure 1, Rev 2: Location of new poles and transformer



**Revision 1:**

This revision of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Cell Site 6 expansion at the Critical Infrastructure Test Range Complex (CITRC) includes an updated site layout for Cell Site 6 based on the 90% design review.

- The grubbing plan will include 20' around the 100' pad and 22' around the secondary road.
- Excavation trench for electrical (portion outside of existing gravel pad).
- Clarification on additional gravel layout area 100' beyond the concrete pad/gravel area (Total 200' expansion + grade).

Figure 1, Rev 1: Grubbing plan (additional 20' around the gravel area and 22' for the road).

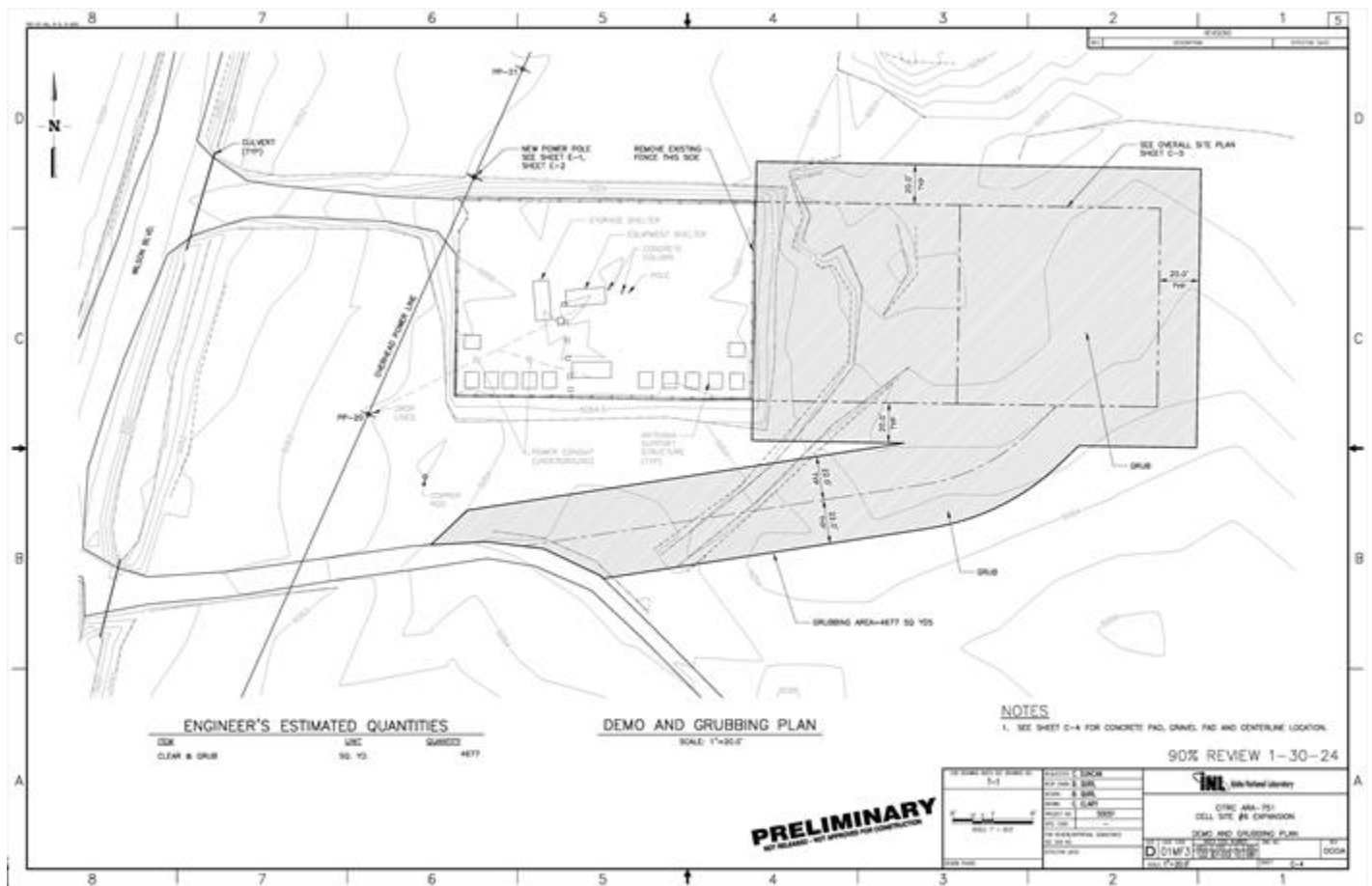


Figure 2, Rev 1: Excavation trench (electric) outside of existing gravel pad.

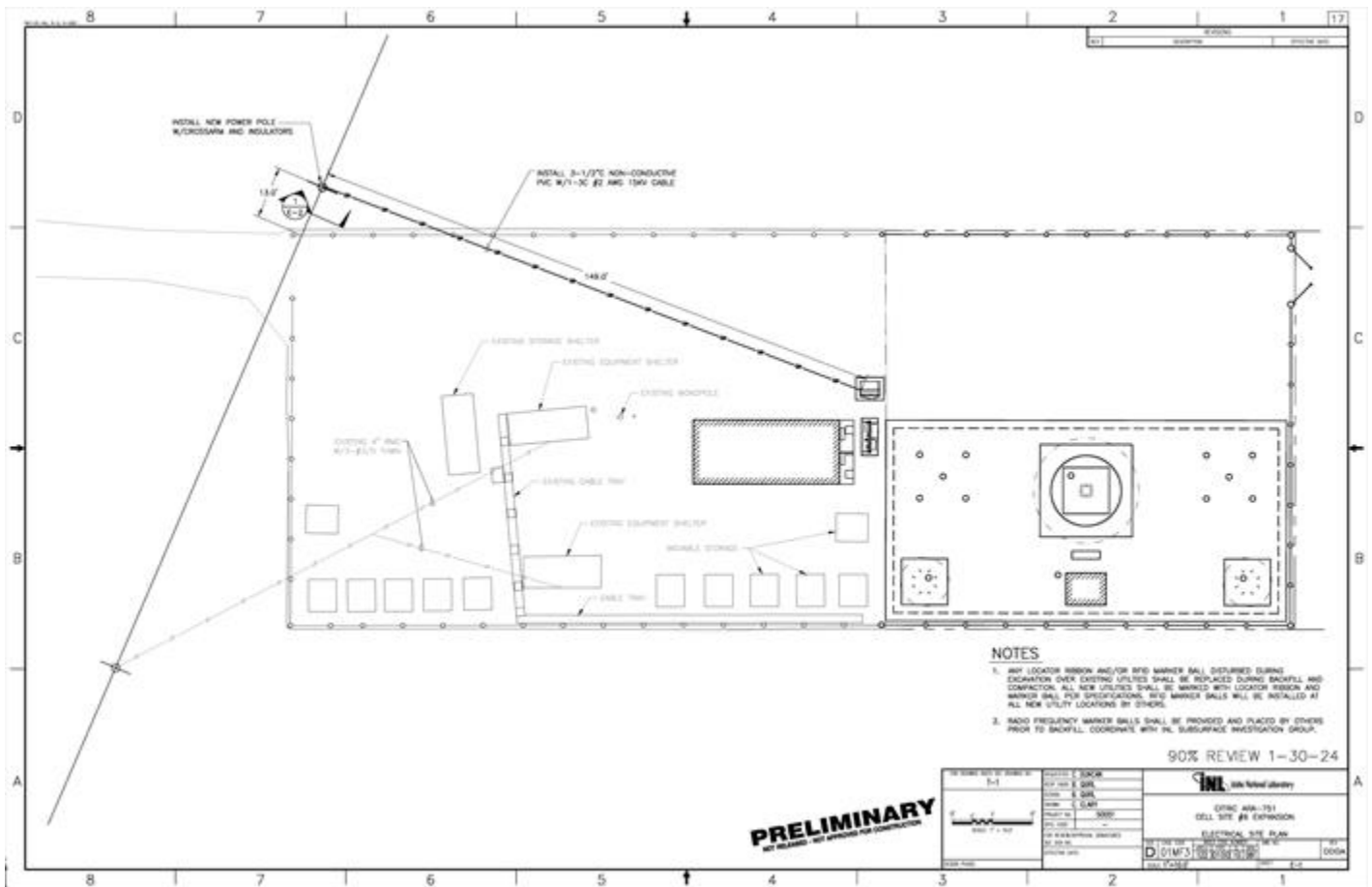


Figure 3, Rev 1: Pad Section

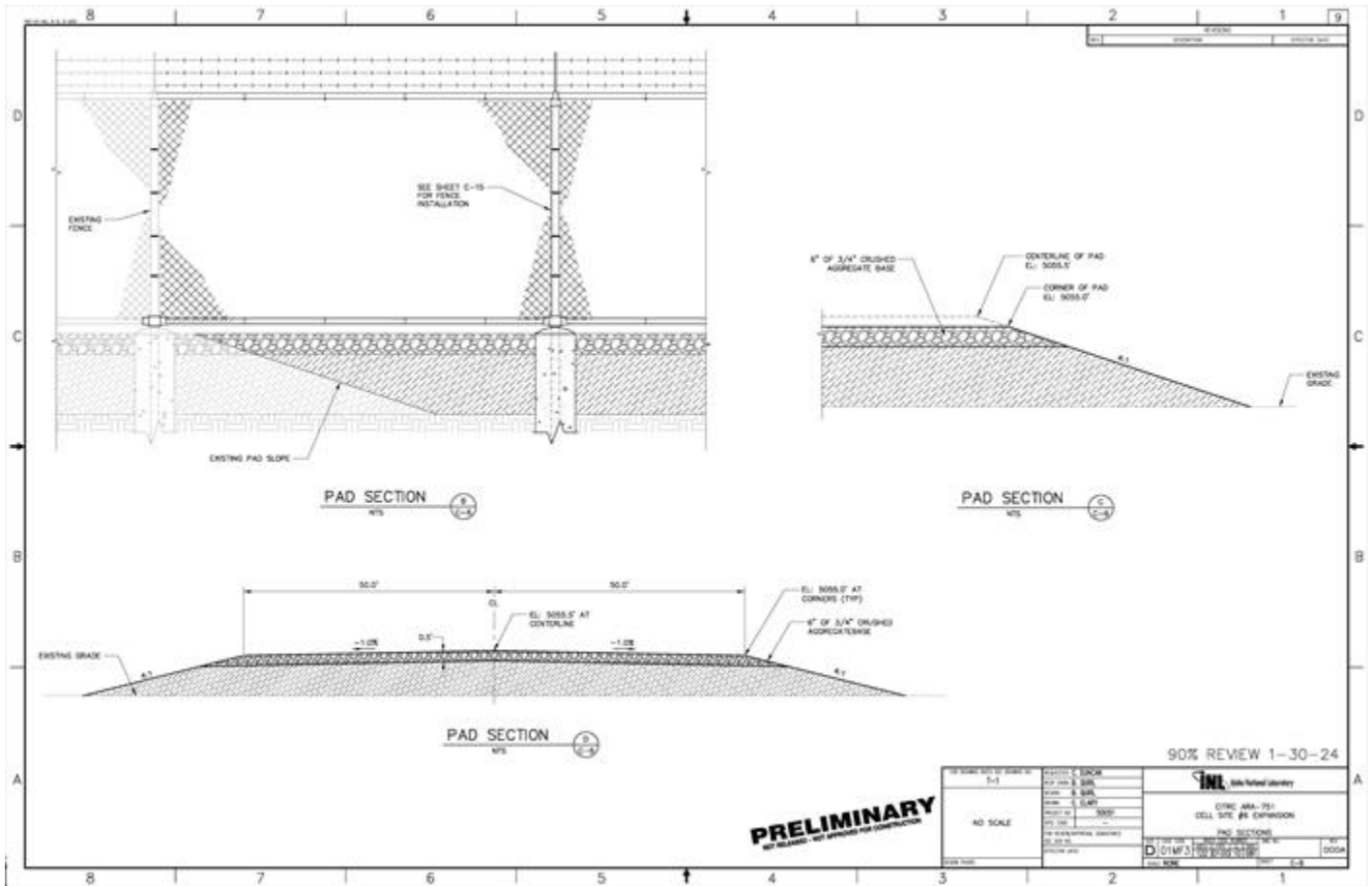


Figure 4, Rev. 1: Example of graded area



**Original ECP:**

An N&HS Sponsor requires a remote communications facility for testing and training at Cell Site 6 - INL/CITRC/ARA (43032'00"N 112049'50"W).

The work activity includes the following:

- Extend the existing gravel pad and security fence 100' to the East and provide a vehicle gate
- Install new concrete pads for communications equipment
- Provide electrical power to equipment, shelters, restrooms, and all necessary component
- Provide a portable restroom trailer
- Provide grounding for all new installations
- Provide communication and network connections
- Provide an ISO shelter approximately 16' x 40

Construction activities will have the potential to generate fugitive dust emissions.

Clearing & grubbing of vegetation east of the existing cell site will be required, along with extension of secondary road for egress.

Two track roads will be utilized and extend the old ARA-III emergency access road for a secondary means of egress.

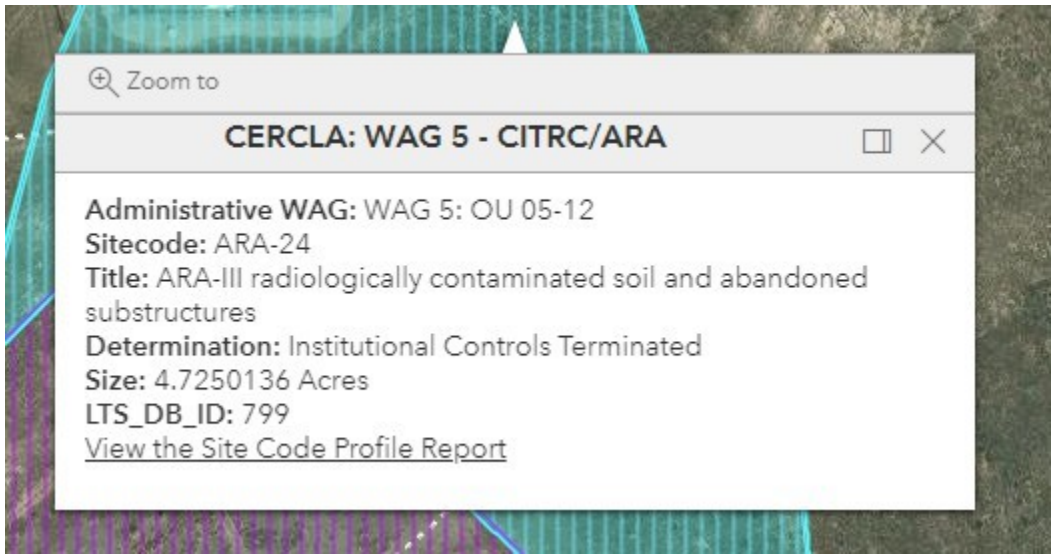
Waste generation will include industrial waste including concrete and rebar demolition debris, scrap metal, and electronic components could be generated.

Construction chemicals such as paint, fuels, lubricants, adhesives, etc., will be used during the project and for the emergency generator.

Figure 1, Original: Expansion Area



Figure 2, Original: CERCLA



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

**Air Emissions**

Air Emissions – Construction activities will have the potential to generate fugitive dust.

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

NA

**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-23-021 R3) and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected.

**Generating and Managing Waste**

Construction chemicals such as paint, fuels, lubricants, adhesives, etc., will be used during the project.

**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**

Project description indicates materials will need to be purchased or used that require sourcing materials from the environment. Being conscientious about the types of materials used could reduce the impact to our natural resources.

**Environmental Justice**

The INL Cell Site 6 expansion at the Critical Infrastructure Test Range Complex (CITRC) involves installing power poles, a transformer, and communication equipment within the secured, non-residential area of the INL site in the Southeast Idaho desert. According to the CEQ Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, the INL site and the Research and Education Campus in Idaho Falls are located in disadvantaged communities. However, because the project is situated in a remote area with no permanent residents, impacts on Environmental Justice are expected to be negligible, assuming all project-specific instructions are followed.

This conclusion is supported by the remote location, minimal environmental disturbance, controlled waste management, lack of major emissions, use of existing infrastructure, and temporary nature of any ground disturbances. The project will comply with all relevant environmental regulations, ensuring that any potential impacts are properly managed. Consequently, the activities related to the INL Cell Site 6 expansion are unlikely to adversely or disproportionately impact surrounding disadvantaged communities.

**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:** B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects", B4.13 "Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines"

**Justification:** Based on the purpose and need and description of the proposed action and potential environmental impacts, the proposed action fits within the class of actions that is listed in Appendix B CX B3.6 and B4.13. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)) and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Authorizing the proposed action will not (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive orders; (2) require siting of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; (4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources; or (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species.



**DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION**  
**Idaho National Laboratory**

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects. Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for small-scale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines. Upgrading or rebuilding approximately 20 miles in length or less of existing electric powerlines, which may involve minor relocations of small segments of the powerlines.

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: 12/9/2024