

Project Title: Access Road Construction for Facility B21-615

Project Description and Purpose:

Facility B21-615, a newly constructed building located at the Central Facilities Area (CFA) Gun Range, currently has limited access. At present, entry to the facility requires driving to the end of Colorado Street and navigating back through the Gun Range parking lot. This existing route raises potential safety concerns due to its proximity to the Gun Range and its indirect nature.

Construction of a dedicated access road to directly connect Facility B21-615 to Colorado Road is planned. The proposed access road will be designed to enhance safety and operational efficiency. It will measure 36 feet in width and approximately 300 feet in length. The construction scope includes site preparation activities such as grubbing and excavation to a depth of 12 inches. Following these preparatory steps, a layer of ¾-inch gravel will be applied and compacted to create a durable and stable surface suitable for long-term use.

This proposal prioritizes safety improvements while minimizing environmental impact, ensuring reliable and secure access to Facility B21-615.



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

The site reserved for the replacement septic system drainfield is located southwest of the existing system. This site may be impacted by the proposed road. Contact TPOC for the exact location of reserved site.

This project is located within the boundaries of the storm water corridor and therefore may have a reasonable potential to discharge to “Waters of the U.S.”. If this project disturbs more than one acre then the need for a stormwater permit should be evaluated.

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 -

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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 RESOURCES: This proposed action is a federal undertaking as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(y). The CRMO has reviewed the proposed activities under BEA-26-014, including establishing the undertaking's Area of Potential Effects. A review of previous studies determined there are no built environment or archaeological historic properties present. There are no effects to historic properties.

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

Determination

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); (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B. The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. However, segmentation does not include proposals that are developed and potentially implemented over multiple phases where each phase results in a decision whether to proceed to the subsequent phase. There is no extraordinary circumstance related to the proposal that is likely to cause a reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effect or for which DOE does not know the environmental effect. Extraordinary circumstances are unique situations presented by specific proposals, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

References: B1.13 "Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines"

Justification: For the DOE regulations regarding the application of categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021. Implementing guidance for categorical exclusions can be found in DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025): (See full text in regulations and implementing procedures).

The proposal must fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 and must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions therein.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. DOE or an applicant may modify the proposal to avoid reasonably foreseeable adverse significant effects such that the categorical exclusion would apply.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines. Construction, acquisition, and relocation, consistent with applicable right-of-way conditions and approved land use or transportation improvement plans, of pedestrian walkways and trails, bicycle paths, small outdoor fitness areas, and short access roads and rail lines (such as branch and spur lines).