

**U.S. Department of Energy- Idaho Operations Office
National Environmental Policy Act
Categorical Exclusion Determination**

Page 1 of 5

Categorical Exclusion Posting No.: DOE-ID-INL-25-044

Project Title: Railroad Laydown Area

Project Description and Purpose:

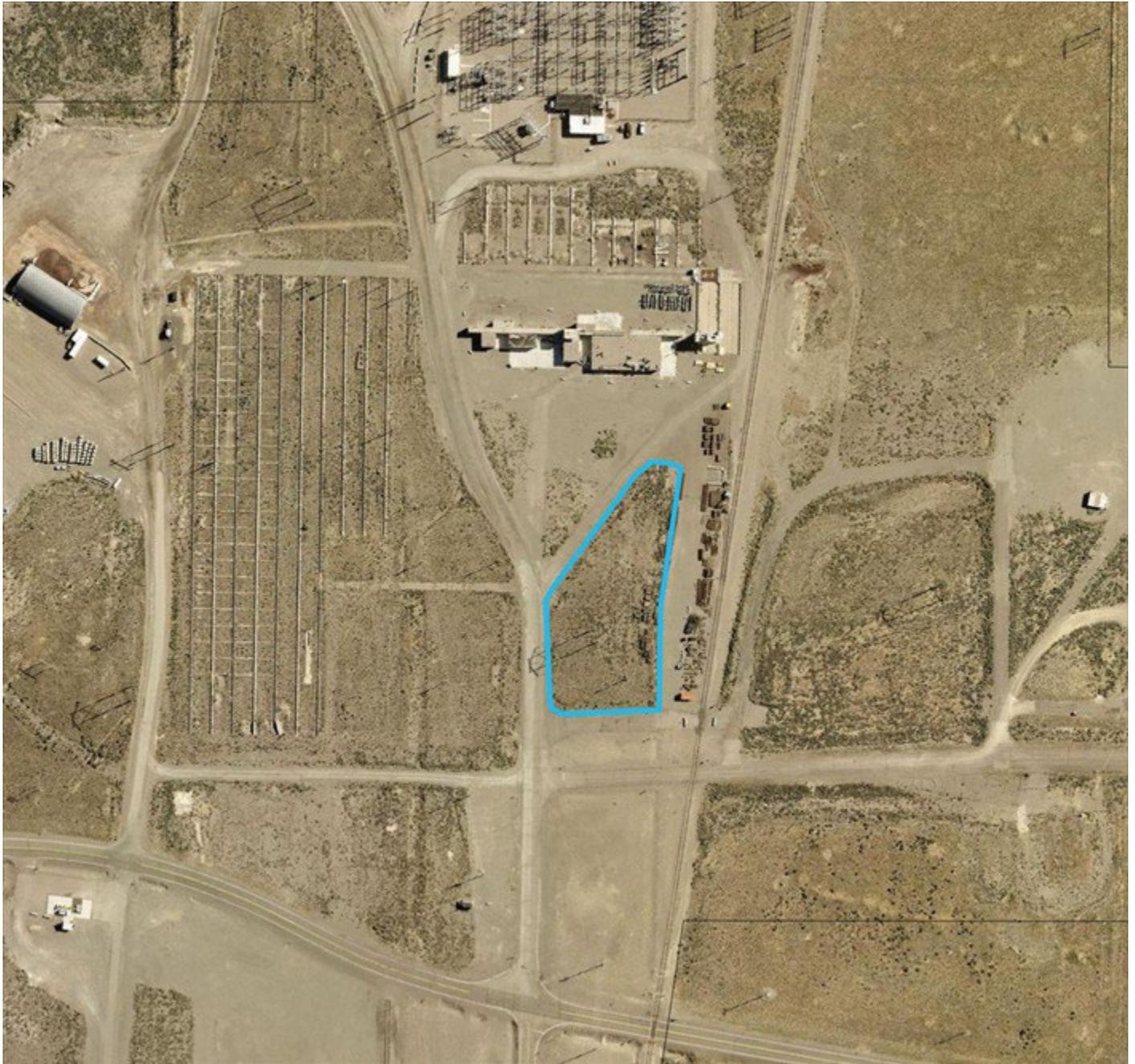
A dedicated laydown area for staging railroad materials south of CFA-633 is required. Although this area was mowed earlier this summer, additional work is necessary to enhance its effectiveness.

The scope of work includes the following tasks:

- Re-mowing the area if necessary.
- Clearing and removing vegetation.
- Laying down pit run and ¾ inch road base, followed by grade and compact to establish a sturdy foundation.
- Dismantling abandoned communication pedestals and posts. This will involve digging down to access the abandoned communication lines, cutting the lines, and placing a marker ball at the cut end.

These measures will ensure the laydown area is accessible and prevent equipment from sinking. Additionally, creating a stable foundation is critical to maintaining the integrity of the materials and ensuring a safe environment for workers.

U.S. Department of Energy- Idaho Operations Office
National Environmental Policy Act
Categorical Exclusion Determination



**U.S. Department of Energy- Idaho Operations Office
National Environmental Policy Act
Categorical Exclusion Determination**





Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

NA

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-26-009) and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected. Please refer to Holds Points and/or Project Specific Instructions.

**U.S. Department of Energy- Idaho Operations Office
National Environmental Policy Act
Categorical Exclusion Determination**

Generating and Managing Waste

There is expected to be minimal to no accumulation of industrial or hazardous waste. In the event that waste is generated, it will be packaged and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the BEA Waste Management Program (WMP), with assistance from the WMP's Waste Generation Services (WGS) subcontractor. Any waste generated will be well within the capacity for WGS to manage in a timely manner.

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: B1.15 "Support buildings"

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.

B1.15 Support buildings. Siting, construction or modification, and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated and modular buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include, but are not limited to, those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (such as security posts); fire protection; small-scale fabrication (such as machine shop activities), assembly, and testing of non-nuclear equipment or components; and similar support purposes, but exclude facilities for nuclear weapons activities and waste storage activities, such as activities covered in B1.10, B1.29, B1.35, B2.6, B6.2, B6.4, B6.5, B6.6, and B6.10 of this appendix.

Approved by Robert Herzog, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 11/26/2025