

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

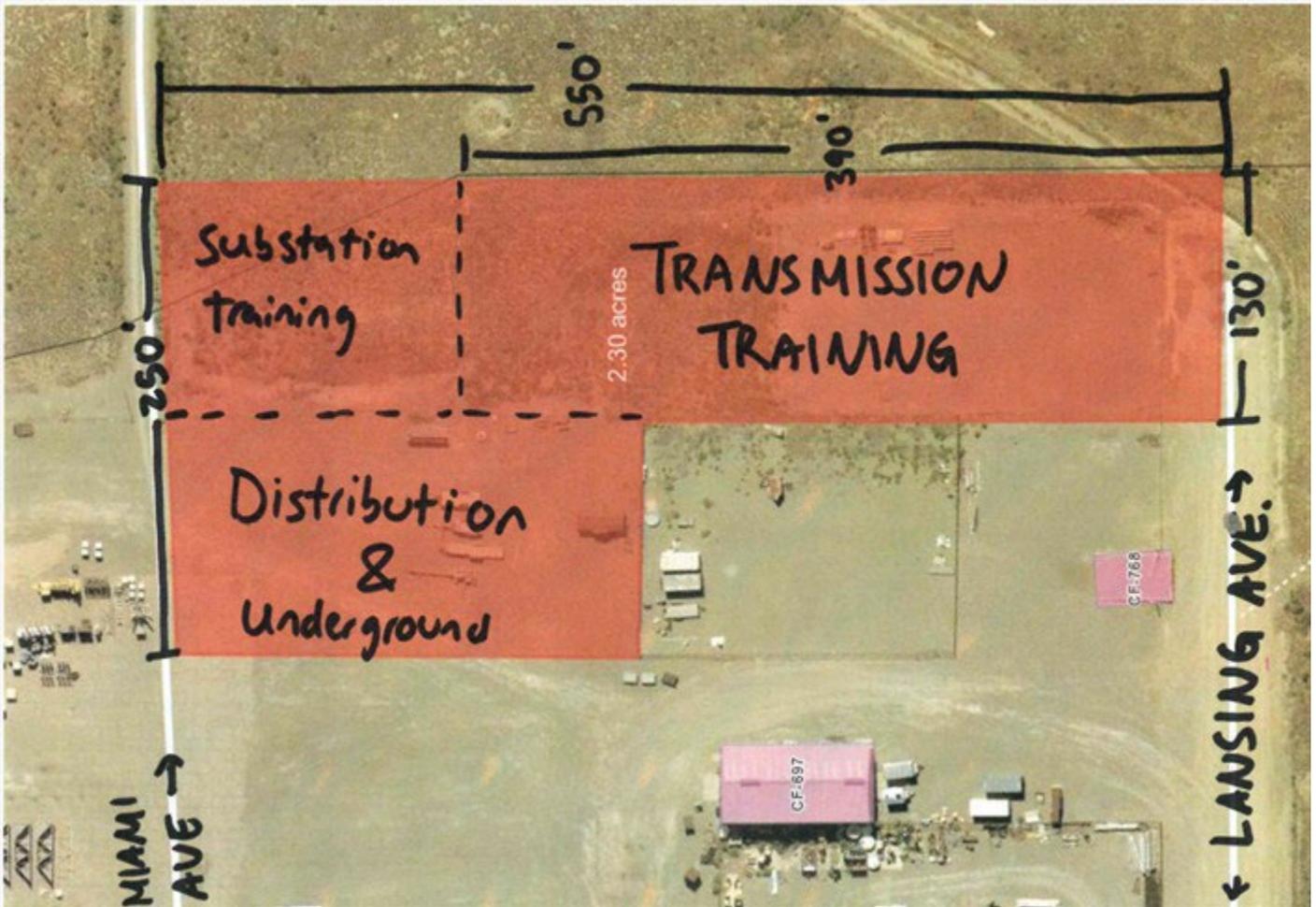
SECTION A. Project Title: Power Management Training Space

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

Power Management is requesting authorization to build a training yard to develop the skills of the journeymen linemen in the department. Prior to 2020, PMGT had a training yard north of the CFA substation, that had to be re-purposed to create space for the Raghorn project. PMGT then considered the use of annual line school training yards to be enough hands-on practice to satisfy professional development and training. However, in 2023 the linemen qualification changed and no longer required to send the crews to line school each year. Instead, we do in-house training occasionally supplemented by outside training contractors. Our continuous improvement team then asked management to develop our training yard to continue giving both current journeymen and new apprentices the ability to practice hands on in a de-energized, non-production environment. Vendors could also utilize this space to demonstrate new tools, or methodologies for the industry, and the training organizations that we contract with would use this space to conduct their training, thereby saving us the cost of traveling to other types of de-energized yards around the country.

Power Management engineering and our management looked at the various areas available to us here at CFA. Our considerations were proximity to our shop and storage facilities, current use of the space, and size requirements to be able to fit all of our tools and equipment. We selected this space as our best option given that there was no current use of the space and also that there were no overhead energized conductors near it. That allows us to safely operate all of our equipment without requesting power line outages. We designed the yard to be split into three portions. Substation, distribution and transmission. In the substation section, we plan to put substation class transformers and breakers to practice grounding. We also would practice climbing on the transformers. There would be a small amount of space to support future growth as the need arises. In the distribution section of the training yard, we would have distribution poles planted both at normal height and at ground level. Line would be pulled between these poles and typical equipment (fuses, transformer banks, reclosers, etc.) would be on the poles. We could practice equipment installations, grounding, operating, phasing and troubleshooting all from the air which would give our apprentices practice with our bucket trucks. For the ground level transformers, we would have them make up 3 phase and single-phase connections and we could also use voltage measuring tools and low voltage power supplies to demonstrate key concepts. Ground level equipment would also provide a huge advantage in both training and pre-job brief scenarios. This is because engineering can engage with the whole crew at once and demonstrate/explain concepts that will be put into practice in the air. In the transmission section we would have a mock 3 phase OH line to practice grounding. This one we would do an angled structure to give us practice pulling line tensions in that specialized scenario. This section of the yard would also be used for digger derrick training and operation. We believe that this 2.3-acre plot of land would be fundamental to our organizations continued development and growth, and that it is big enough to support our training needs and be able to provide a small amount of space for growth opportunity, should the need arise.

Note: Power Management anticipate using about 10 poles that will be 55 foot tall. A 55 foot pole is buried in the ground 7 feet, so the “visual height” will be roughly 48 feet above the ground. If you have any more questions, please let me know!



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

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-25-071) and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected. Please refer to Hold Points and Project Specific Instructions of the ECP.

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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

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); (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: B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations", B4.4 "Power marketing services and activities"

Justification: For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, and also Section 5.4 (Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal) and Appendices B and C of DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). Requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures: (See full text in regulation and in Implementing Procedures).

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.

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.

[Note: For proposals that fit within the categorical exclusions listed in Appendix C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, see DOE's notice of adoption for the subject Appendix C categorical exclusion for additional considerations. DOE notices of adoption for other agency categorical exclusions may be found on DOE's Section 109 webpage.]

B1.2 Training exercises and simulations. Training exercises and simulations (including, but not limited to, firing-range training, small-scale and short-duration force-on-force exercises, emergency response training, fire fighter and rescue training, and decontamination and spill cleanup training) conducted under appropriately controlled conditions and in accordance with applicable requirements.

B4.4 Power marketing services and activities. Power marketing services and power management activities (including, but not limited to, storage, load shaping and balancing, seasonal exchanges, and other similar activities), provided that the operations of generating projects would remain within normal operating limits.

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Approved by Robert Herzog, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 9/9/2025