

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

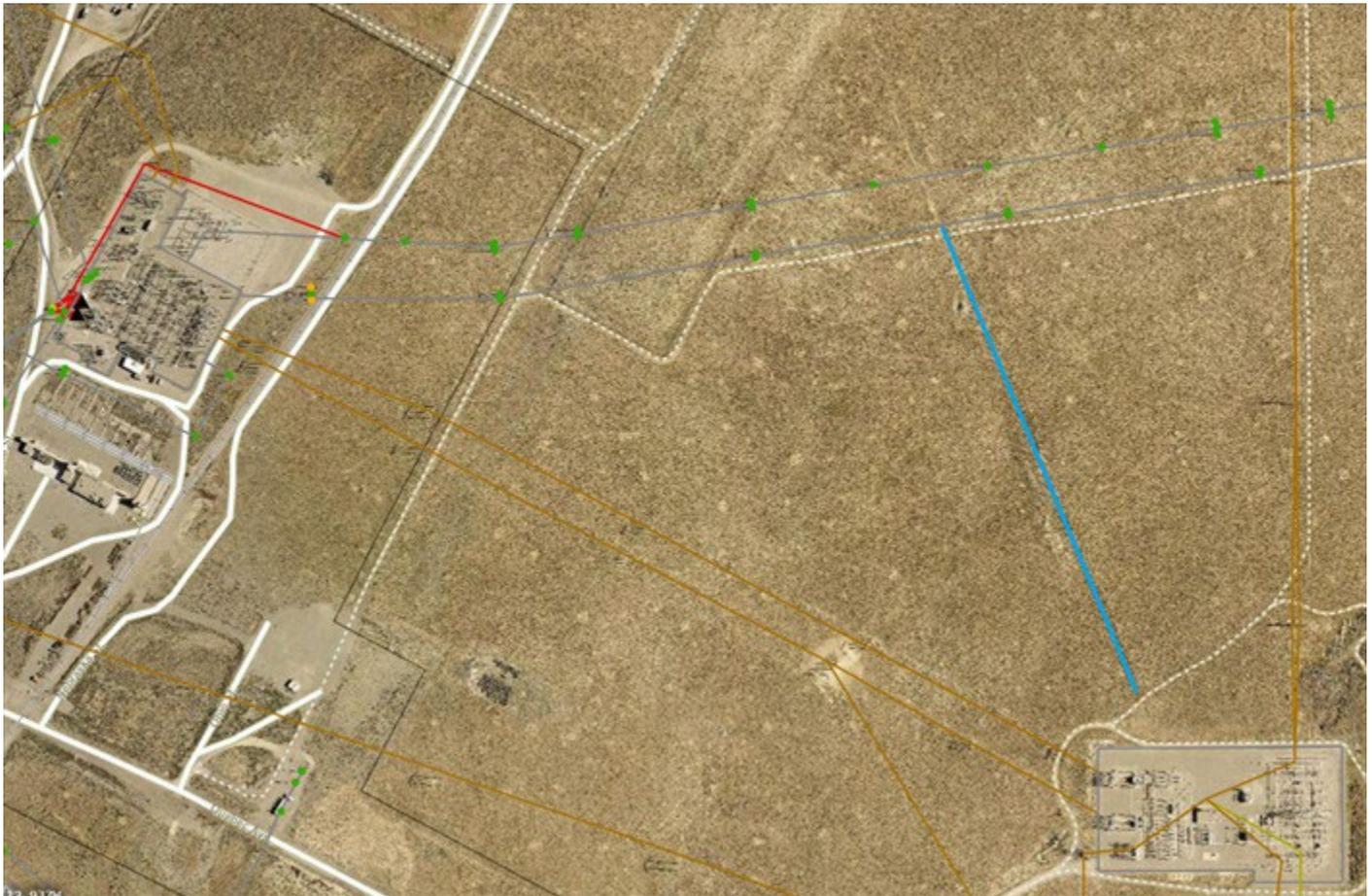
Project Title: Power Management Modifications in preparations for the Pronghorn Substation at CFA R1

Project Description and Purpose:

Rev 1

During the construction of the Pronghorn Station, the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) will supply temporary power to facilitate the construction and testing phases. This power provision will be in place for approximately one year from the date of connection. The installation will involve the placement of four poles and four anchors at specified GPS locations (refer to the locations provided below). This setup includes overhead 13.8kV conductors, back guys, and anchors.

Upon completion of the temporary power requirement and the Pronghorn Station becoming operational, the poles will be removed. The anchors, however, will be cut off at ground level and left in place. The chosen locations for the poles align with a previously established road, as depicted by the blue line below, ensuring that any impact on undisturbed ground is minimized.



Name	Decimal Degrees		Degrees Minutes Seconds	
	Latitude (WGS 84)	Longitude (WGS 84)	Latitude (WGS 84)	Longitude (WGS 84)
ANCHOR 4 RESET	43.53616259	-112.9283088	43°32'10.18532"	112°55'41.91168"
PP4 RESET	43.53625205	-112.928347	43°32'10.50738"	112°55'42.04920"
PP3 RESET	43.53682126	-112.9285887	43°32'12.55654"	112°55'42.91932"
PP 2 RESET	43.537409	-112.9288381	43°32'14.67240"	112°55'43.81716"
ANCHOR 3 RESET	43.53834567	-112.9285611	43°32'18.04441"	112°55'42.81996"
ANCHOR 2 RESET	43.53807213	-112.9291185	43°32'17.05967"	112°55'44.82660"
ANCHOR 1 RESET	43.53794431	-112.9291715	43°32'16.59952"	112°55'45.01740"
PP1 RESET	43.53800177	-112.929088	43°32'16.80637"	112°55'44.71680"
60	43.5360047	-112.9283036	43°32'09.61692"	112°55'41.89296"
26	43.53647141	-112.9295106	43°32'11.29708"	112°55'46.23816"
25	43.53563454	-112.9273463	43°32'08.28434"	112°55'38.44668"

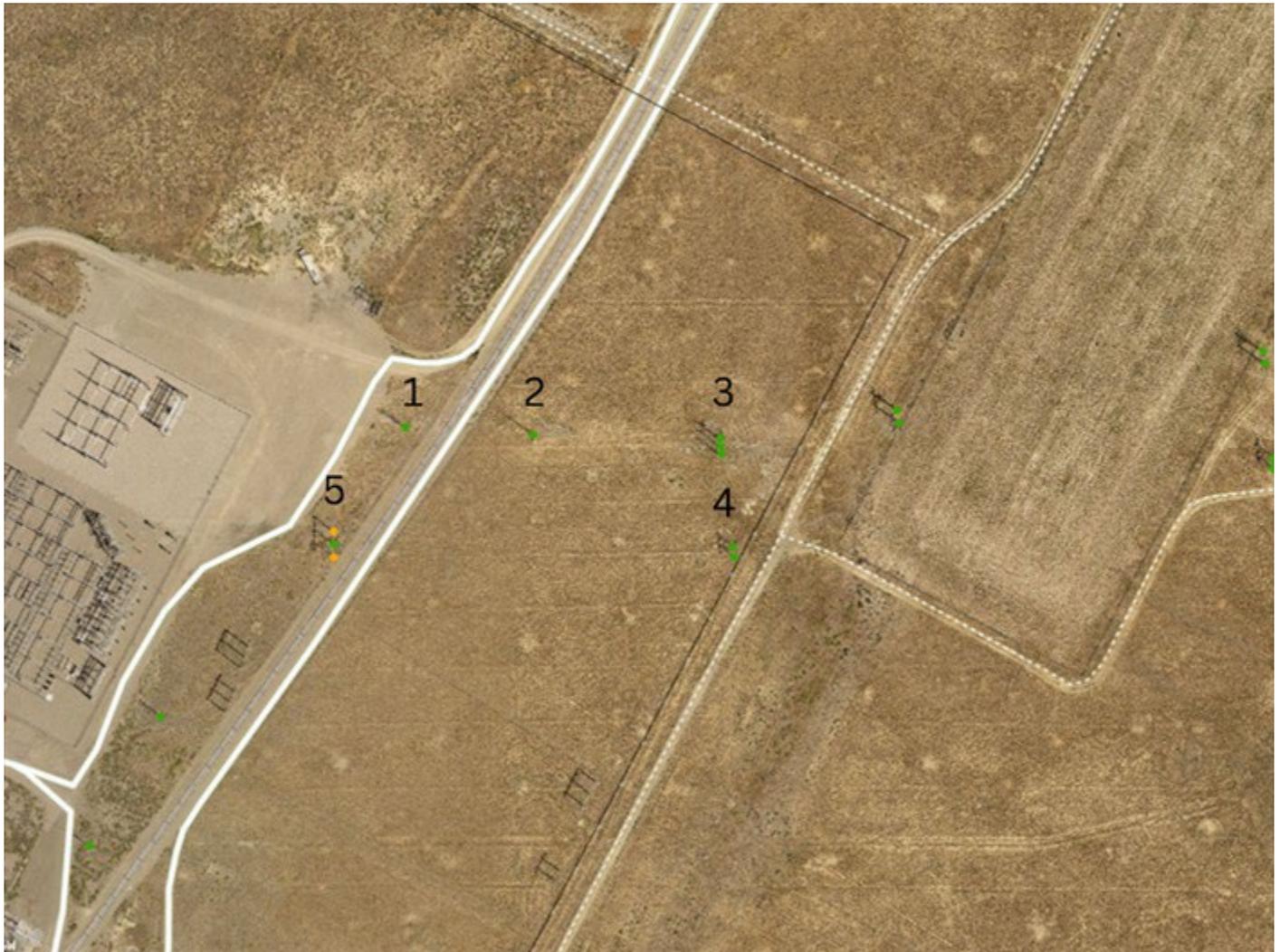
Original ECP

Power Management Maintenance for lines near railroad tracks at CFA

In preparation for the new 69 KV reroute Substation at CFA, the following modifications to the power management infrastructure will be implemented:

Refer to the attached image for power pole number references. Specifically, this project involves the following steps:

- Removal of the distribution cables from power pole #2 to pole #3. These cables will be installed in an underground trench and rerouted to a riser on power pole #3.
- Pole #1 and #2 will be shortened to a height of approximately 40 feet. Distribution lines will then be raised to a height of approximately 38 feet.
- A 2 pole tangent structure with a pole height of 84.5 feet will be placed near pole #2.



Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Fugitive emissions have the potential to be generated from this activity.

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 RESOURCES: A Section 106 review for Power Management Modifications in Preparation for the Pronghorn Substation at CFA (INL-24-097 R1) was completed under CRMO project number BEA-25-052 R1 and resulted in a no historic properties present.

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

Using, reusing, and conserving natural resources (describe impact): 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.

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: B4.11 "Electric power substations and interconnection facilities"

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

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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.]

B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities. Construction or modification of electric power substations or interconnection facilities (including, but not limited to, switching stations and support facilities).

Approved by Robert Herzog, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 11/20/2025