

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

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Categorical Exclusion Posting No.: DOE-ID-INL-26-017

Project Title: TAN 629A

Project Description and Purpose:

The Specific Manufacturing Capabilities Complex (SMC) requires additional administrative office space and a modern high-performance computing center (HPCC) to support ongoing mission growth, operational expansion, and increased computing demand, and this need will be addressed through the planned expansion of the existing TAN-629 structure within the boundaries of the hangar. The project will add approximately 8,000 square feet of new facility space, consisting of 5,000 square feet on the first floor and 3,000 square feet on the second floor, to create a functional combination of office areas, support rooms, and infrastructure-ready zones designed to house the specialized systems and environmental controls required for high-performance computing operations.

As part of the expansion effort, new utility services—including water, sewer, power, and telecommunications—will be constructed or extended to support both personnel needs and the new mechanical and electrical equipment. Water and sewer lines will be installed by excavating and tying into existing utility connections located on the north end of the SMC campus.

To meet the continuous and substantial cooling requirements of the HPCC equipment, dry-type cooling towers will be installed on the north end of the hangar; these towers, similar in function to commonly used adiabatic dry units (<https://www.frigel.com/adiabatic-cooling>), will connect to a dual closed-loop cooling system that provides efficient heat rejection while minimizing water consumption and ensuring stable operating temperatures under full computational load.

Electrical capacity for the expansion will be provided from two independent overhead power circuits, each requiring trenching from the respective utility pole to new transformer pads just north of the hangar, ensuring improved redundancy, fault tolerance, and sufficient electrical distribution for both office loads and sensitive HPCC equipment.

Interior work will include cutting and removing a portion of the existing concrete slab inside the hangar to allow for new structural footings and routing of water and sewer services; once utilities are installed, a new concrete slab will be poured and building construction will proceed with wall framing, roofing, and enclosure of the expanded structure. Telecommunications service will be extended from the existing TAN-629 building and routed overhead in cable trays, minimizing construction impacts and maintaining clear separation from mechanical and electrical systems.

In preparation for construction activities, an industrial-sized paper shredder located inside the hangar, along with its associated power connections and fire-suppression components, will be removed to clear the work zone.

Construction activities will start with utility excavation and progressing through structural erection and mechanical system installation to support final facility commissioning.

Waste Forecast

Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste

- Concrete rubble from slab removal and footings – 15–25 CY – Recycle where feasible; otherwise, CFA landfill
- Excess excavated soil from utility trenching – 40–60 CY – Reuse as backfill when possible; if surplus, remains at SMC
- General construction debris – 1–2 × 30-yd roll-offs – CFA landfill
- Demolition debris – 2–5 CY – CFA landfill or metal recycle where applicable
- Asphalt – 5–10 CY – CFA landfill

Industrial Waste

- Scrap metal – 300–800 lb – Recycle through INL metal program
- Mechanical/electrical material cutoffs – 1–3 CY – INL industrial waste stream

Hazardous Waste

- Electrical components from shredder – <100 lb – D001/D008 (if applicable) – Characterization required; preference is to recycle; dispose as hazardous waste if applicable
- Universal waste (lamps, thermostats, batteries) – 10–40 lb – UW – Universal waste recycling
- Potential ACM/lead coatings (if discovered) – 0–2 CY – ACM/LBP – Manage per TSCA/RCRA and INL procedures

Waste Forecast Acronym Legend

- ACM – Asbestos-Containing Material
- C&D – Construction and Demolition
- CY – Cubic Yards
- HPCC – High-Performance Computing Center

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- INL – Idaho National Laboratory
- LBP – Lead-Based Paint
- TSCA – Toxic Substances Control Act
- UW – Universal Waste

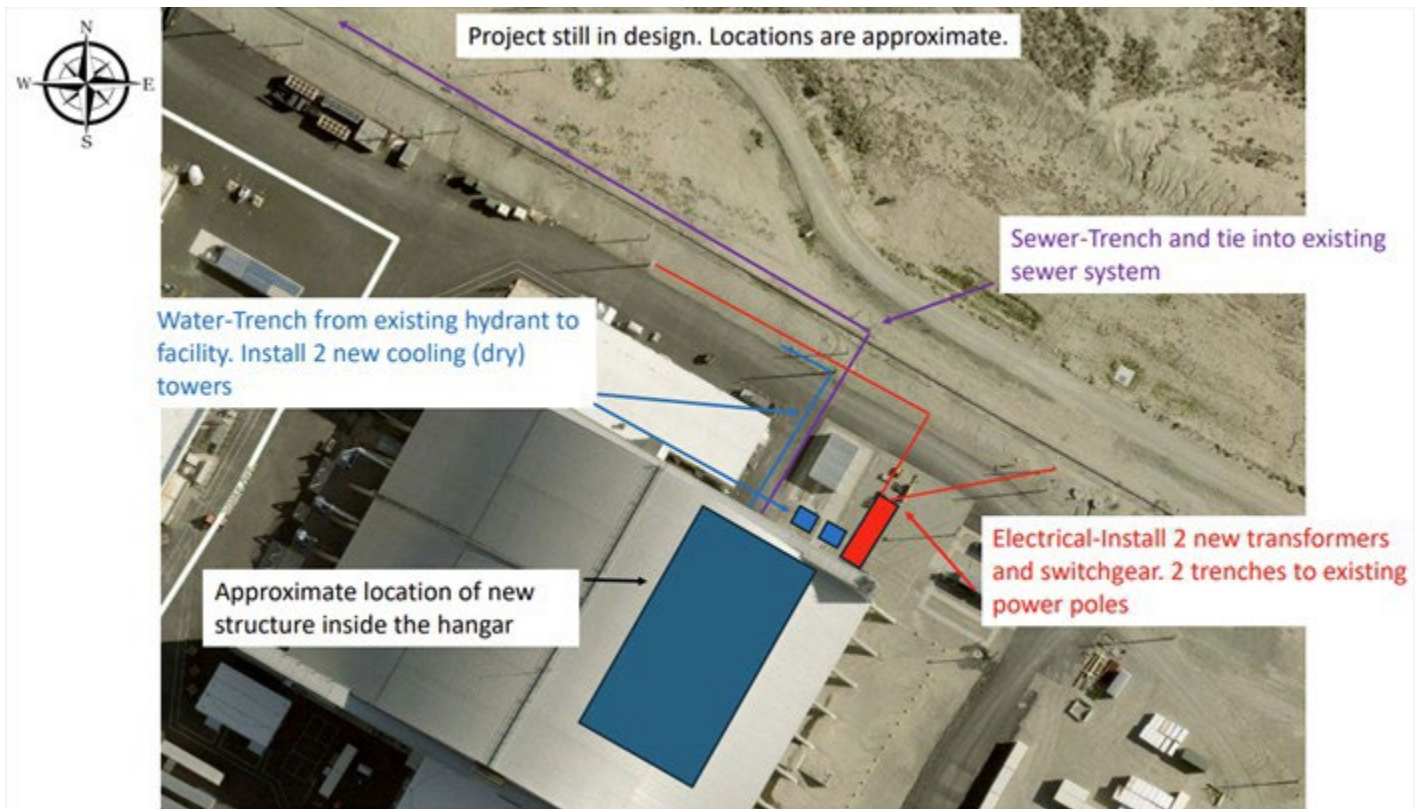


Figure 1. TAN 629 location and utilities connections.

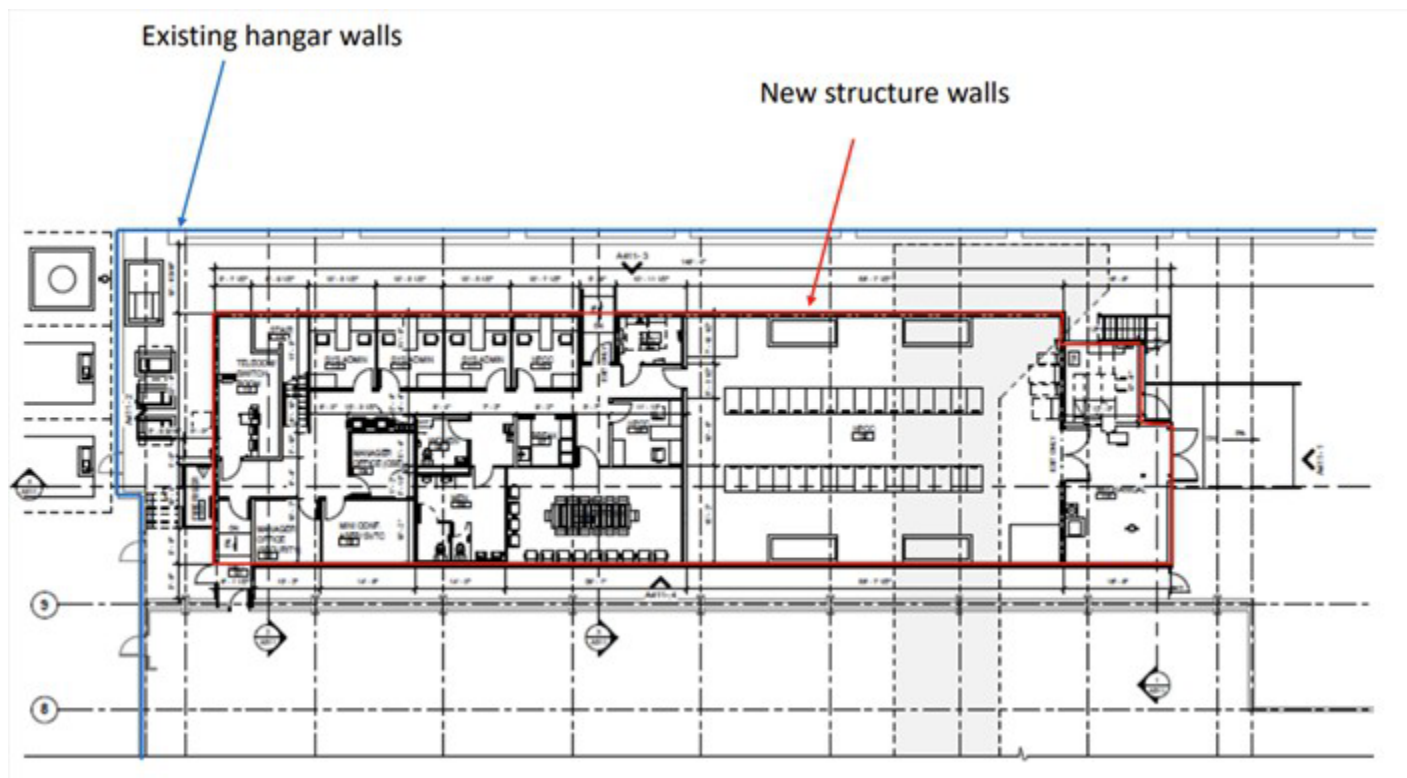


Figure 2. Internal construction layout.

Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Project activities have potential to generate fugitive dust.

Operation of the cooling towers have the potential to emit particulate matter from drift, as well as hazardous air pollutants from any potential water treatment additives.

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 has completed under CRMO project number (BEA-26-051) and resulted in No Adverse Effect. Project-specific consultation is not required for this project. Please refer to Holds Points and Project Specific Instructions.

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).

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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.

Determination:

References: B1.15 "Support buildings"

Justification: The proposal fits within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures and satisfies the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions therein. The proposal does not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B; (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.

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.

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.

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 Douglas Herzog, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 6/25/2026