

## DOE invites the public to review the draft Programmatic Agreement Concerning Management of the Manner in which the Department of Energy will meet its National Historic Preservation Act on the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site

Today, the U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation released for public review and comment the Programmatic Agreement Concerning Management of the Manner in which the Department of Energy will meet its National Historic Preservation Act on the Idaho National Laboratory Site (INL).

Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, DOE is responsible for compliance for all historic properties at the INL Site owned by the Department of Energy (DOE). DOE has determined that operation, management, use, and administration of the INL entails undertakings that may affect historic properties, which are therefore subject to review under Section 106 of the NHPA and the Section 106 implementing regulations. DOE is responsible for compliance with NHPA Section 106 for all federal undertakings on the INL for which DOE is the designated lead federal agency. DOE, in consultation with the Idaho

State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, has determined that DOE's Section 106 requirements can be more effectively and efficiently implemented if a programmatic approach is used.

DOE invited the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Bingham County, Butte County, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters Office, Museum of Idaho, Preservation Idaho: The Idaho Historic Preservation Council, and other interested parties to participate as consulting parties on the PA.

The PA, prepared in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, will:

- Fulfill federal agency responsibilities for proactive management of DOE cultural resources by implementing a comprehensive approach to cultural resource management and planning
- Ensure that all work conducted under this PA is carried out or supervised by personnel who meet the qualifications set forth in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Professional Qualifications (36 C.F.R. § 61) appropriate to the resources.
- Establish and maintain policies and procedures for federal agency responsibilities to implement this PA and manage DOE's cultural resources.
- Ensure that a determination, finding, or agreement made pursuant to this PA is supported by sufficient documentation to enable any reviewing parties to understand its basis, and coordinate review with Idaho SHPO and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

The Department is committed to openness and transparency in its operations at the INL, and to operations that prioritize health and safety, the protection of human health and the environment, and preservation of historic properties at the INL. The programmatic agreement is posted for public review at: <https://www.id.energy.gov/insideNEID/PublicInvolvement.htm>

The 14-day public comment period on the draft PA will conclude on September 25, 2022. Comments can be submitted by mail to Betsy Holmes, 1955 Fremont Ave., MS-1216, Idaho Falls, ID 83415 or by email to [holmesbs@id.doe.gov](mailto:holmesbs@id.doe.gov)



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