

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
EASEMENT FOR ENHANCED ELECTRICAL SERVICE TO THE
COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES FACILITY, PACIFIC NORTHWEST
NATIONAL LABORATORY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON**

Proposed Action:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Pacific Northwest Site Office (PNSO) proposes to approve the establishment of a City of Richland easement for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). PNNL proposes to enter a Fee for Service arrangement with the City of Richland for enhanced electrical service to the Computational Sciences Laboratory (CSF) for future facility computational enhancements.

Location of Action:

With the establishment of an easement, electrical service would be installed by the City of Richland in existing underground utility corridors along the north, south, and east borders of the CSF site, extended from the City's Sandhill Crane Substation, located west of Stevens Drive.

New computer racks would be added to the CSF computer room 1811. A small facility addition is planned to be constructed nearby, in the southeast corner of CSF, to accommodate additional electrical infrastructure such as switchgear, chillers, pumps and a new cooling tower, all to support the new computer enhancements. Please refer to Figure 1.

Description of the Proposed Action:

This project would be composed of two parts:

- 1) The scope would provide an easement and develop a Fee for Service agreement with the City of Richland for enhanced electrical service via underground electrical utility raceways from the Sandhill Crane Substation to the southeast corner of the CSF on Battelle Memorial Institute property. The City of Richland scope would be to install a 10MW transformer yard consisting of four 2500KVA transformers/termination cabinets at the south end of CSF to support future power needs of the CSF. This would include excavation in a new easement developed for this project, backfill and compaction to site grade elevation, and re-work of existing utilities and landscaping.
- 2) To get the electrical service in usable form to CSF, PNNL, through a task order to the facility owner (Cowperwood Company), would reconfigure CSF computer room 1811, excavate and cut the walls and floor as necessary to make connections and install concrete pads for electrical ducts, switchboard cabinets and metering enclosures.

The work scope would also include a minor expansion of the CSF computer and computer support rooms to a lawn area directly southeast of CSF computer room 1811. Installation would include the necessary lighting, grounding and

heating/cooling equipment, including a cooling tower, to support the electrical service. Refer to Figure 1. It is likely that the small building extension would take the form of a façade that matches the existing facility exterior.

This categorical exclusion (CX) would also include those actions foreseeably necessary to the proposal, such as awarding grants and contracts, working with the City of Richland and facility owner and their contractors, providing for material and waste management, excavating and installing computer equipment, utility equipment, panels, receptacles, switchboards, meters, electrical lines and conduits.

Cultural Resources Review:

Because this project is located on Battelle's private property serving a third party-owned facility and the work would be performed by the City of Richland, the facility owner, and their subcontractors, an evaluation has determined that there does not appear to be direct or indirect jurisdiction as a federally assisted undertaking except for paying the Fee for Service invoice for the easement activities. The Battelle site has been reviewed previously and no sensitive cultural resources were identified (94-3000-002, 90-300-025). It is not expected that work conducted under this CX would adversely affect sensitive cultural resources because 1) previous surveys found no sensitive resources; 2) the recently constructed CSF is not eligible for historic status; 3) the existing utility corridors have been extensively disturbed; and 4) decades of agricultural activities on the site before the construction activity have left little site integrity.

Biological Resources Review:

The CSF site consists of lawn and other landscaping, and borders an active agricultural field on the north. The proposed activities would occur well outside of the migratory bird nesting season. Because there is no native habitat and no nesting birds are present, it is unlikely that the proposed action would adversely affect any native plant and animal species in the vicinity.

Categorical Exclusion to Be Applied:

Because the proposed action is to approve an easement for enhanced electrical service to support new computing infrastructure at CSF, the following CX, as listed in the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing procedures, 10 CFR 1021, would apply:

B1.7 Acquisition, installation, operation, and removal of communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.

Eligibility Criteria:

The proposed activity meets the eligibility criteria of 10 CFR 1021.410(b) because the proposed action does not have any extraordinary circumstances that might affect the significance of the environmental effects, is not directly connected [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not

directly related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not an interim action precluded by 10 CFR 1021.211.

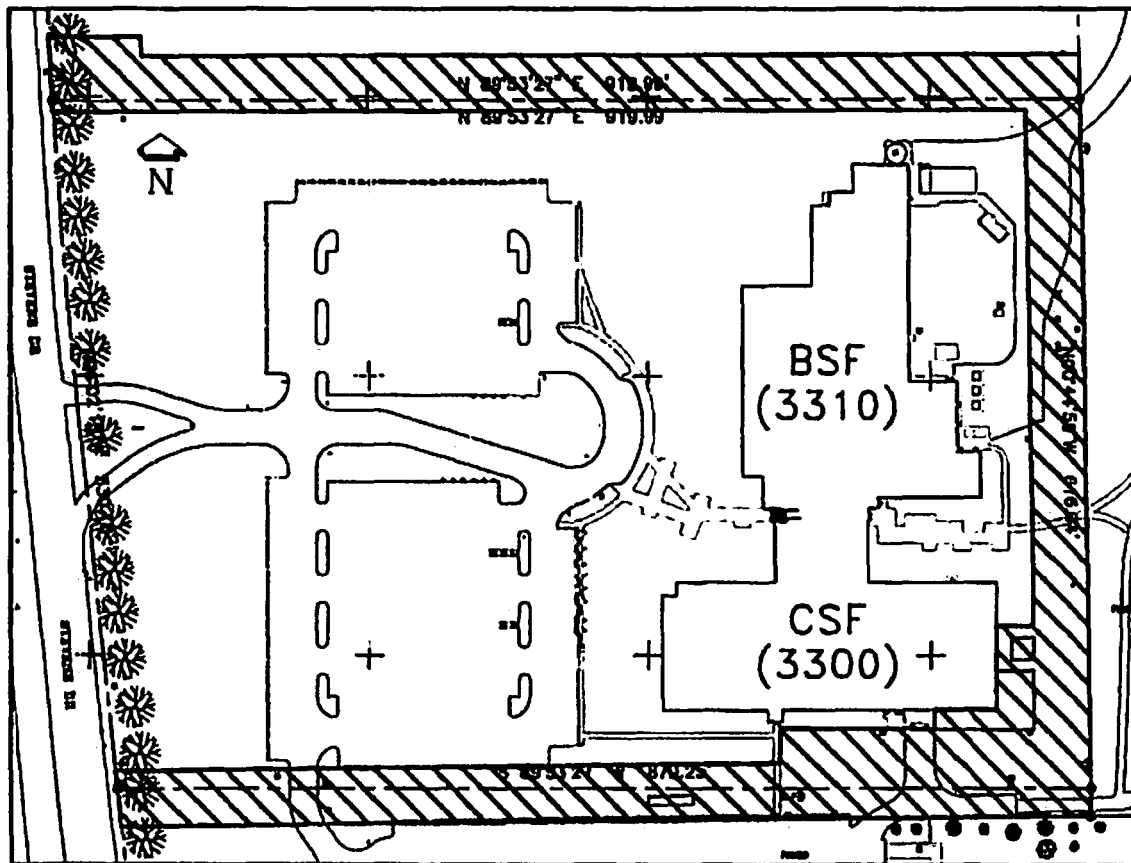


Figure 1. Engineer drawing of project area with proposed easements, utility corridors, and areas to be disturbed illustrated in diagonal hatch-marks. The small proposed facility addition and cooling tower are shown at the southeast corner of CSF within the diagonal hatch-marks.

The "Integral Elements" of 10 CFR 1021 are satisfied as discussed below:

INTEGRAL ELEMENTS, 10 CFR 1021, SUBPART D, APPENDIX B (1)-(4)	
WOULD THE PROPOSED ACTION:	EVALUATION:
Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health?	The proposed action would not threaten a violation of regulations or DOE or executive orders.
Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities?	No waste management facilities would be constructed under this CX. Any wastes would be managed in accordance with applicable regulations.
Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases?	No preexisting hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants would be disturbed in a manner that results in uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.
Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protected historical/archaeological resources • protected biological resources and habitat • jurisdictional wetlands, 100-year floodplains • Federal- or state-designated parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or monuments. 	<p>The proposed action would not disturb environmentally sensitive resources. Refer to the "Description of the Proposed Action."</p> <p>The proposed action would not adversely affect floodplains, wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act, national monuments or other specially designated areas, prime agricultural lands, or special sources of water.</p>

Checklist Summarizing Environmental Impacts: The following checklist summarizes environmental impacts that were considered when preparing this CX determination. Answers to relevant questions are explained in detail in the text following the checklist.

Would the proposed action:		YES	NO
1	Result in more than minimal air impacts?		X
2	Increase offsite radiation dose measurably?		X
3	Require a radiological work permit?		X
4	Cause more than a minor or temporary increase in noise level?		X
5	Discharge any liquids to the environment?	X	
6	Require a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures plan?		X
7	Require an excavation permit (e.g., for test pits, wells, utility installation)?		X
8	Disturb an undeveloped area?		X
9	Use carcinogens, hazardous, or toxic chemicals/materials?	X	
10	Involve hazardous, radioactive, polychlorinated biphenyl, or asbestos waste?	X	
11	Require environmental permits?		X

Explanations:

5. The proposal to provide an easement for underground electrical utility raceways and a 10MW transformer yard and modify CSF to support computer enhancements might require application of water to control fugitive dust.
9. The proposed action would use materials such as wire, conduit, conductors and other potentially hazardous materials such as paints, solvents, sealants, etc. These materials would be used and managed appropriately.
10. Proposed activities would be expected to result in small quantities of hazardous wastes. If unrecyclable, such wastes would be characterized, handled, packaged, transported, stored, and/or disposed of in existing treatment, storage, and disposal facilities in accordance with applicable regulations.

Compliance Action:

I have determined that the proposed action satisfies the DOE NEPA eligibility criteria and integral elements, does not pose extraordinary circumstances, and meets the requirements for the CX referenced above. Therefore, using the authority delegated to me by DOE Order 451.1B, Change 2, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Signature:  Date: 8-30-11
Julie K. Erickson
DOE PNSO NEPA Compliance Officer

cc: RS Weeks, PNNL