



Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office
1955 Fremont Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

September 3, 2014

Dear Citizen:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has completed the Final *Environmental Assessment on the Disposition of Five Signature Properties at Idaho National Laboratory* and determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate for the proposed action. The draft EA was made available for a 32-day public review and comment period on May 29, 2014. DOE did not receive any public comments on the EA.

The FONSI and final EA can be accessed on the DOE website at www.id.doe.gov. Thank you for your interest in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard B. Provencher".

Richard B. Provencher
Manager

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT ON THE DISPOSITION OF FIVE SIGNATURE PROPERTIES AT THE
IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY**

Agency: U. S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Action: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Summary: DOE prepared an environmental assessment (EA), DOE/EA-1984, to assess the impacts of dispositioning five World War II properties at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site. The purpose of the proposed action is to accomplish the appropriate disposition of those properties. It is a responsibility and requirement of the DOE to plan for and eliminate excess real property when it becomes extraneous to the government's needs in order to reduce risks and minimize life-cycle costs. Given the properties' age, condition, and location, there was no reasonable potential for their reuse, transfer, or sale. DOE evaluated the environmental impacts of the proposed action that entail deactivating and demolishing the five properties with the exception of certain sections of one facility (CPP-633) and the No Action Alternative.

Selected Action: DOE has decided to implement the proposed action as described in the EA which is to disposition the five properties and implement the required mitigations. DOE considered the analysis in the EA before making its decision. The draft EA was released for a 32 day public comment period and no comments were received on the document.

Analysis: Based on the analyses in the EA, the selected action will have a substantive effect on the cultural environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). However, those impacts will be mitigated by implementing actions agreed upon and documented in a signed Memorandum of Agreement between DOE, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

1) Beneficial and adverse impacts [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(1)]: The selected action will eliminate numerous health and safety issues associated with the five structures as well as cost associated with maintaining the structures. There will be a substantive impact on the historic properties and the cultural landscape of the INL Site. However, the impacts will be mitigated by implementing the requirements of the signed MOA between the DOE, the Idaho SHPO, and ACHP. All other environmental impacts occurring as a result of implementing the selected action will be minimal (Section 4.0, pp. 10-12).

2) Public health and safety [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(2)]: The selected action will not create health and safety issues that will have any noticeable effect on the public. Except for cultural resources all other impacts will be negligible. Almost all of the impacts will be contained within the INL Site boundary (Section 4.1 pp. 10-12). These do not represent any unique hazards to public health and safety.

3) **Unique characteristics of the geographical area [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(3)]:** The INL Site has been a federal reservation with restricted public access since the mid-1940s. The general public has not been allowed access to the facilities and will not be able to view them in the near future, if ever. Implementing the selected action will change the cultural landscape of the INL Site but the mitigations will provide an opportunity for the public to become more knowledgeable of the historic aspects of the INL Site.

4) **Degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to become highly controversial [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(4)]:** The analysis and lack of any public comment indicates the selected action will not have effects that will likely become highly controversial.

5) **Uncertain or unknown risks on the human environment [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(5)]:** The analysis indicates no uncertain or unknown risks on the human environment will result from implementing the selected action.

6) **Precedent for future actions [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(6)]:** The selected action does not set a precedent for future action that may have significant effects, or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

7) **Cumulatively significant impacts [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(7)]:** The analysis indicates the selected action, when combined with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, will result in little additional impact on any resource with the exception of cultural resources (Section 4.1, pp. 10-12). The selected action will impact cultural resources on the INL Site through the removal of historic properties associated with World War II activities. Mitigation in the form of preparation of a Historic American Landscape Study report and interpretive signage will preserve the important aspects of the INL World War II landscape per the requirements of the signed Memorandum of Agreement between DOE, the Idaho SHPO, and ACHP. Considering the mitigation measures that will be completed, cumulative impacts to cultural resources will be low.

8) **Effect on cultural or historical resources [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(8)]:** The selected action will have a substantive impact on the historic properties and the cultural landscape of the INL Site. However, the impacts will be mitigated by implementing the requirements of the signed MOA between the DOE, the Idaho SHPO, and ACHP.

9) **Effect on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(9)]:** The analysis indicates no threatened or endangered species or critical habitat will be adversely impacted by the selected action. The selected action will have minimal impact on biological resources. Operational controls identified in Section 2.1 will be implemented to reduce or eliminate impacts to these resources.

10) **Violation of Federal, State, or Local law [40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(10)]:** None of the actions identified in the selected alternative violate federal, state or local laws.

Determination: Based on the analysis presented in the attached EA, I have determined that the selected action is not a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The selected action will have substantive effects to specific properties, but those impacts will be mitigated by implementing required actions as part of the signed MOA between DOE, the Idaho SHPO, and ACHP. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

Issued at Idaho Falls, Idaho on this 3rd day of September, 2014.



Richard. B. Provencher
Manager, Idaho Operations Office

Copies of the EA and FONSI are available from: Tim Jackson, Office of Communications, MS-1203, Idaho Operations Office, U. S. Department of Energy, 1955 Fremont Avenue, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83415-1203, or by calling (208) 526-8484.

For further information on the NEPA process contact: Jack Depperschmidt, NEPA Compliance Officer, MS-1216, U. S. Department of Energy, 1955 Fremont Avenue, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83415-1216, (208) 526-5053.