NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) 3
Categorically Excluded Actions

Document ID #: DOE/CX-00234

I. Project Title:
Activity-Specific Categorical Exclusion for Project L-888, Eastern Plateau Fire Station

II. Describe the proposed action, including location, time period over which proposed action will occur, project dimension *(e.g., acres displaced/disturbed, excavation length/depth)*, and area/location/number of buildings. Attach narratives, maps and drawings of proposed action. Describe existing environmental conditions and potential for environmental impacts from the proposed action. If the proposed action is not a project, describe the action or plan.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL), Security and Emergency Services Division (SESD) proposes to construct a new Eastern Plateau Fire Station on the Hanford Site under Project L-888. The Eastern Plateau Fire Station would be located on Canton Avenue, north of the intersection with Hanford Route 4S and south of the 213WTP Building in 200 East Area (see Figure 1).

As cleanup operations continue and DOE-RL conveys or leases excess land for economic development and clean energy initiatives, the Hanford Site would eventually shrink from its current 580 square miles to an estimated 75 square miles centered on 200 East Area and 200 West Area (also known as the Central Plateau). This would require Hanford Fire Department's (HFD) emergency response to hazardous material events, fire suppression, technical rescue incidents, emergency medical situations, and fire alarms to adapt to changing work locations, conditions, and worker populations. These and other changes would require repositioning HFD assets to locations that enable more timely response to active operations areas on the Central Plateau [e.g., Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) in 200 East Area].

DOE Order 420.1C, Change 1, "Facility Safety," requires an emergency response baseline needs assessment every three years for each DOE site that maintains a staffed fire department. The DOE Order stipulates assessment of each department's capability to provide timely and efficient fire suppression, emergency medical, hazardous material, rescue, and incident command responses.

Over a decade ago, the January 2012 HFD emergency response baseline needs assessment anticipated continued services to numerous facilities within the southern half of the Hanford Site including the 300 and 400 areas. At that time, Hanford Site Fire Station 93 in the 300 Area was anticipated to reach its remaining useful life within five years. The 400 Area Fire Station (Station 94) was closed in November 2013. Project L-888 was initially planned to account for HFD support in the southern half of the Hanford Site and to address the limited life expectancy of Fire Station 93 by constructing a new Southern Area Fire Station in the 400 Area.

In May and July 2017, HNF-60756, Revision 0, "Functional Design Criteria Project L-888 Hanford Fire Department Southern Area Operations Fire Station" and HNF-60670, Revision 0, "Functional Requirements Document Hanford Fire Department Southern Area Operations Fire Station Project L-888" were issued to support construction of a new Southern Area Fire Station in the 400 Area. In March 2018, a "National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review Screening Form" for an activity-specific categorical exclusion to construct a Southern Area Fire Station in the 400 Area was approved by the DOE Hanford Site NEPA Compliance Officer (DOE/CX-00176). In August 2019, a complete detailed design for the Southern Area Fire Station was completed and released.

On February 16, 2023, DOE-RL issued letter 22-SEI-004050. This letter confirmed that HNF-SP-1180, Revision 5, "HFD Emergency Response Needs - Volume 1: Baseline Needs Assessment" adequately addressed facility safety (DOE O 420.1C) and fire protection (DOE STD 1066) requirements. However, new information and changing circumstances developed that would affect construction of the proposed Southern Area Fire Station in the 400 Area. A revision to the Project L-888 work scope became necessary to align the HFD emergency response baseline needs assessment with current conditions.

On March 6, 2023, DOE-RL issued letter 23-AMMS-000592. This letter authorized revision of HNF-SP-1180, Revision 5, to reflect new information and changing circumstances that would affect the HFD emergency response baseline needs assessment and the Project L-888 work scope.

On March 27, 2023, DOE-RL issued letter 23-ISD-001052. This letter indicated that DOE-RL has been successfully accomplishing the cleanup mission in the 300 Area. This includes decommissioning and demolition of the majority of structures and infrastructures, and turning over most remaining operations and services in the 300 Area to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) with the exception of the 300 Area Fire Station (3709A), the 324 Building (undergoing demolition), and

the Records Storage Building (3212). In addition, the City of Richland annexed the PNNL campus and built two new fire stations (Station 73 on Jadwin Avenue and Station 75 on Battelle Boulevard). The City of Richland and PNNL initiated a service agreement that led to PNNL contributing to the funding for the construction of Fire Station 75. The remaining facilities in the southern half of the Hanford Site including DOE's Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Federal Training Center, Patrol Training Academy (PTA), and Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF); the Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station; and the National Science Foundation's Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) would continue to be served by the HFD 300 Area Fire Station. The 300 Area Fire Station would be maintained for continued operations under separate NEPA reviews, as needed. HAMMER and the PTA are low hazard facilities and could also be served by the City of Richland Fire Department for emergency and fire responses.

The Hanford cleanup mission is planned to focus on the Central Plateau for the next few decades. Therefore, a decision was made to relocate the proposed new Project L-888 fire station from the 400 Area to the Central Plateau.

On April 5, 2023, DOE-RL issued letter 23-ISD-001152. This letter stated that a 400 Area Fire Station would no longer be pursued. DOE-RL directed revision of the Project L-888 work scope to provide for an Eastern Plateau Fire Station in 200 East Area. The letter also directed the work scope to be optimized to remove and/or reduce extraneous features.

On July 18, 2023, the Hanford Mission Essential Services Contractor submitted HNF-1180, Revision 6, to DOE-RL (HMIS-2302751). This HFD emergency response baseline needs assessment reaffirmed the need to construct an Eastern Plateau Fire Station in 200 East Area.

On April 3, 2024, DOE-RL issued letter 24-ISD-0002. This letter directed revision of design inputs that would have minimal cost and schedule impacts, reduce construction costs, and further support fire station consolidation efforts. The Eastern Plateau Fire Station would provide the HFD with the capability to provide continuous coverage for firefighting services in the Hanford Site’s 200, 300, 400 and 600 Areas south of the Wye Barricade.

The long-term strategic configuration of fire stations to meet the Hanford Site mission needs would not be possible without the Eastern Plateau Fire Station. Failure to construct the Eastern Plateau Fire Station would result in a less effective configuration and the inability to remove existing service and infrastructure in support of fire station consolidation and footprint reduction efforts. The Eastern Plateau Fire Station is necessary to meet the desired end-state defined in the "Hanford Site Infrastructure and Services Alignment Plan" (ISAP, HNF-44238, current revision). Desired outcomes include HFD reducing its footprint from four to two fire stations, including the Eastern Plateau Fire Station located to serve the Central Plateau and areas south of the Wye Barricade. This would also centralize fire and emergency response support for the safety mission on the Hanford Site. The consolidation from four fire stations down to two represents a major cost savings opportunity for annual operating expense budgets into the foreseeable future.

Seven potential fire station locations in 200 East Area were evaluated in HNF-PJS-00040, Revision 0, "Project L-888 Eastern Plateau Fire Station 200 East Area Site Location Decision Document" (see Figure 2). These alternative locations were evaluated based on multiple criteria including emergency response times, distance from Waste Information Data System (WIDS) sites, proximity to available utility access, and other considerations. Location 1A was determined to be the preferred location.

The proposed Eastern Plateau Fire Station would be located on Canton Avenue, north of the intersection with Hanford Route 4S and south of the 213WTP Building in 200 East Area. This location was analyzed in the "Final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement" (TCWM EIS, DOE/EIS-0391, December 2012) and "Record of Decision" (ROD), as an area designated for construction of supplemental treatment facilities associated with the WTP, which is managed by the DOE Office of River Protection (ORP) and Bechtel National Incorporated (BNI)(see Figure 3). However, after HFD discussions with DOE-ORP and BNI, it was agreed the location would be used for the Eastern Plateau Fire Station to optimize emergency response times in relation to changing work force locations associated with WTP operations.

HNF-PJS-00040 identifies the basis for the site selection. Formal approval to use the site to construct the Eastern Plateau Fire Station was granted in November 2023, and is documented in Site Evaluation #200E-2023-0021. Use of the site to construct the Eastern Plateau Fire Station would

also be consistent with the "Final Hanford Site Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement" (DOE/EIS-0222-F, HCLUP EIS, September 1999) and ROD. The HCLUP EIS and ROD establish a map, designations, policies, and procedures for land use at the Hanford Site. The proposed construction site is designated for industrial-exclusive land use by the HCLUP EIS (see Figure 4).

The 22,130 square feet, single-story, Eastern Plateau Fire Station would include, but may not be limited to, the following capabilities:

A. Vehicle bays to support eight emergency response vehicles. Supporting features would include drive through bays, bypass doors, a drain system, and an automatically actuated exhaust system.

B. An area to test, clean, and maintain vehicle equipment would be located adjacent to the fire station.

C. A day shift functional space would be provided. This space would include administrative offices, a combined training and conference area, an office for instrument test and maintenance personnel, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant bathrooms.

D. A living area would be provided to accommodate 24-hour shift personnel, with at least 12 HFD personnel per shift. This area would include dormitory rooms and offices for on-shift personnel, kitchen and dining area, study/administrative work space, physical training space, showers and lavatories, and a storage area for janitorial and laundry supplies.

E. Support electrical and communications equipment would be provided for continuity of fire station operations. This includes required communications equipment, normal electrical service, a backup emergency generator, and provisions for emergency generator electrical supply.

F. Storage to support operations would be provided including a secured and controlled environment for medical and bunker gear in addition to general storage-specific areas.

G. Access to Hanford Site roads and parking would be provided to accommodate privately owned vehicles.

Excavations for the fire station foundation; electrical, sewer, water, and telecommunication utilities; and construction of supporting parking lots, access roads, curbs, storm water gutters and drains, signage, light poles, irrigation systems, and landscaping would reach a depth of 2 to 10 feet. A propane tank and standby emergency generator would be installed on a concrete pad requiring excavations 2 to 4 feet deep. Fire hydrants and post indicator valves would be installed requiring excavations up to 10 feet deep. Tie-ins to existing utilities would require trenching from 6 to 20 feet wide and 6 to 8 feet deep. Installation of flashing warning signs along road shoulders would require excavations up to 5 feet deep. Construction of staging and laydown areas would involve grubbing, blading, and gravel application to a depth of one foot. All excavation depths are conservatively estimated and actual depths would be determined during detailed design.

The area of potential effects (APE) for installation of telecommunication, sewer, water, and electrical utilities extends from Hanford Route 4S, along Canton Avenue, to 4th Street and covers an area approximately 93.3 acres in size (see Figure 5). This APE was conservatively estimated to bound the maximum potential project area evaluated by NEPA, cultural, and ecological reviews to avoid the need for additional reviews if the APE is exceeded and provide flexibility during detailed design. The actual area impacted by construction of the Eastern Plateau Fire Station and supporting infrastructure is expected to have a much smaller footprint and remain within the bounds of the APE.

The Eastern Plateau Fire Station would provide 24/7 fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous material response, and special rescue services to the 200, 300, 400, and 600 Areas south of the Wye Barricade. In addition to primarily serving DOE-RL and DOE-ORP facilities in the 200 Areas, the Eastern Plateau Fire Station would also support the 300 Area Fire Station at cleanup sites and operating facilities south of the Wye Barricade including the 618-11 Burial Ground until remediated and the 324 Building until demolished; the 400 Area; the HAMMER Federal Training Center; the Patrol Training Academy; and non-DOE facilities including the Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station and the National Science Foundation's LIGO Facility.

The Proposed Action would involve the siting, construction, and operation of fire protection

support buildings, structures, and infrastructures adjacent to or within contiguous areas where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible. The following summarizes the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and related mitigation measures for the affected resource areas.

LAND/VISUAL RESOURCES

The Proposed Action is located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site, which is highly industrialized and has been designated for industrial-exclusive land use by the HCLUP EIS. The Proposed Action would be consistent with the land use map, designations, policies, and procedures established by the HCLUP EIS and ROD. There would be no significant visual resource impacts associated with the single-story fire station. Impacts to the land and associated plant and animal species would be unavoidable and would be mitigated as discussed in the ecological resources section. Best management practices would be applied to limit land disturbance by locating new equipment and facilities in close proximity to related activities and using existing disturbed or developed land, infrastructure, and utility rights-of-way to the maximum extent possible.

INFRASTRUCTURE

There would be no significant impacts to site infrastructure. Several infrastructure and support systems exist and have adequate capacity for tie-in including potable water, raw water, electrical power, sanitary sewer, telecommunications, and access roads. Best management practices would be employed for short-term demands on utilities (i.e., those typically required only during construction activities) and would involve the temporary use of portable generators, work lighting, water and fuel storage vessels, and restroom facilities. These portable utilities would be located in previously disturbed or developed areas to the maximum extent possible.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

Temporary increases in noise, vibration, and traffic would occur as a result of construction activities. However, there would be no significant impacts when compared to the Hanford Site baseline and distance to the Hanford Site boundary. Best management practices would be applied to control noise and vibration by limiting construction to day-light hours, maintaining equipment mufflers in accordance with manufacturer's service recommendations, restricting excessive use of horns, using broadband/non-tonal reversing alarms, and using appropriately sized heavy equipment. Construction equipment routes would be planned and timed to minimize impacts on Hanford Site traffic and potential hazards.

Once the Eastern Plateau Fire Station begins operations, noise would increase significantly for short periods of time as firefighters respond to emergency situations. However, the onsite and offsite impacts would be temporary, short in duration, and negligible given the distance to the Hanford Site boundary.

AIR QUALITY

Heavy equipment operations and construction activities would create vehicle emissions [e.g., hydrocarbons, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter (PM-2.5 and PM-10 micrometers)], and fugitive dust. Maximum concentrations of toxic air pollutant emissions would remain below Washington State's acceptable source impact levels (e.g., WAC 173-460, Controls for New Sources of Toxic Air Pollutants) by limiting vehicle idling, using ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel (15 ppm maximum) or alternative fuel equipment (e.g., bio-diesel blends), and maintaining equipment in accordance with manufacturer's service recommendations. Fugitive dust would be controlled [e.g., WAC 173-400-040(9), General Standards for Maximum Emissions] by applying best management practices including water or chemical dust suppressants, restricting maximum vehicle speeds, using low material dump heights, installing wind screens, limiting the amount of land disturbed, and revegetating or otherwise stabilizing disturbed areas.

Project scope includes installation of a standby generator. The standby generator would require submittal of a notice of construction (NOC) application by DOE-RL and issuance of an approval order by the Washington State Department of Ecology prior to initiating construction activities in accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-400-030. Product data for the selected standby generator (i.e., manufacturer, model number, horsepower, emissions data) would be provided to initiate permitting activities, as appropriate.

WATER RESOURCES

Site clearing, grading, grubbing, and excavation would expose soils, sediments, and pollutants (e.g., spilled/leaked oil, diesel fuel, gasoline, or hydraulic fluids) to erosion by heavy rain or storm water runoff. However, low annual precipitation rates, granular soils, and high evaporation rates would limit the potential for runoff. There would be no direct discharge of effluents to surface water or groundwater. Water would be required during construction activities and dust suppression. However, peak water demands would be substantially less than the production capacity of the export raw water supply system for the 200 East Area. There would be no impacts on water resources. Fire trucks are maintained in a state of readiness and are always full. Water would be available at several locations from existing fire hydrants. Best management practices would be used for spill/leak prevention, spill/leak control, and storm water management. Water conservation practices would also be implemented to reduce usage to the minimum amount necessary.

Raw and potable water demand resulting from the proposed Eastern Plateau Fire Station would replace usage by the abandoned Southern Area Fire Station in the 400 Area with no net increase anticipated. In addition, the 200 East Area sanitary sewer system has adequate capacity to accommodate wastewater from the Eastern Plateau Fire Station, although a new lift station and force main may be installed to tie-in to existing sewer pipelines that discharge to the 200 Area Evaporative Sewage Lagoon.

Construction of underground injection control (UIC) wells would comply with the "2019 Storm Water Management Manual for Eastern Washington," as applicable. This manual provides storm water design criteria and management requirements for UIC wells.

Vehicle and equipment wash water discharges to land or ground are not recommended, per the Washington State Department of Ecology’s "2012 Vehicle and Equipment Wash Water Discharges Best Management Practices Manual." Wash water from vehicle and equipment cleaning activities may contain significant quantities of oil and grease, suspended solids, heavy metals, and organics, as well as pollutants from detergents. The preferred option is zero discharge or closed-loop water recycling with discharge to a municipal wastewater system as a second option. Any discharges to the ground would be regulated under the terms and conditions of the "Hanford Site State Waste Discharge Permit ST0004511" and must comply with state ground water standards (WAC 173-200).

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Site excavation work, grading, roadways, parking areas, and laydown areas would have an impact on geology and soils. The demand for mineral resources (i.e., sand and gravel) would be small and not deplete Hanford reserves since these materials are available from eleven active borrow pits on the Hanford Site that are approved for expansion (DOE/EA-1934). Geology and soil impacts would be mitigated by using existing active borrow pits; dust control techniques; soil erosion control measures; and restoring, recontouring, and revegetating disturbed borrow pit areas following their use.

ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEW (ECR-2024-209, ECR-2023-210)

DOE-RL Ecological Compliance performed a field survey of the project area on May 16, 2024, and a follow-up survey on May 22, 2024. The shrub-steppe plant community occurring in the project area has a shrub overstory consisting of big sagebrush, bitterbrush, spiny hopsage, and rabbitbrush, with a perennial bunchgrass understory dominated by Sandberg’s bluegrass, Indian ricegrass, bottle brush squirreltail, sand dropseed, and needle-and-thread grass. Native perennial forbs observed include bastard toadflax, Carey’s balsamroot, hoary aster, turpentine spring parsley, pale evening primrose, longleaf phlox, yarrow, mariposa lily, large-flowered triteleia, sand dune penstemon, prickly phlox, and slender hawksbeard. Native annual forbs and grasses observed include matted cryptantha, bur ragweed, western tansymustard, narrow tansymustard, tall annual willowherb, tarweed fiddleneck, shy gilia, slender phlox, threadleaf scorpion weed, and small fescue. Non-native plant species observed during the survey include cheatgrass, Russian thistle, tall tumblemustard, prickly lettuce, jagged chickweed, spring draba, pigweed, yellow salsify, and bulbous bunchgrass. Mature shrub steppe habitats such as this are considered essential to the biological diversity of the Hanford Site and the Columbia Basin ecoregion and are extremely difficult to replace. Approximately 80% of historic shrub-steppe habitat in the Columbia Basin ecoregion has been lost to development and agriculture. The Hanford Site contains some of the

largest remnants of relatively undisturbed historic shrub steppe habitat in Washington State despite the impacts of several large wildfires. Therefore, protection of this habitat is a priority.

Wildlife species that were observed, have been documented, or are likely to occur in the project area that, while not listed as threatened or endangered, have a federal or state conservation status include Black-tailed jackrabbits, which are currently candidates for listing on Washington's threatened, endangered, or sensitive species list. In addition, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife lists the American badger as a state monitor species, which are not considered species of concern but are monitored for status and distribution to prevent them from becoming endangered, threatened, or sensitive.

The loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl, and the sagebrush sparrow are very likely to occur within the project area. All three species are Washington State candidate species for threatened, endangered, or sensitive status. In addition to being a state candidate species, the burrowing owl is also a federal species of concern. Several active burrowing owl burrows occur near the project area.

The "Hanford Site Biological Resources Management Plan" (BRMP, DOE/RL-96-32, Rev. 2), which is the primary implementation document for managing and protecting natural resources on the Hanford Site, defines mitigation as a series of prioritized actions that reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to biological resources including avoidance, minimization, onsite rectification, and offsite compensation. Avoidance and minimization are preferable to onsite rectification and offsite compensation and should be considered and implemented first, if possible.

Mitigation at the project site includes avoiding, minimizing, or rectifying project impacts. Such mitigation measures typically involve implementation of non-disturbing alternatives, locating projects at a less ecologically sensitive site, reducing project land-use requirements, and scheduling project activities to minimize disturbance to biological resources of concern (e.g., outside the migratory bird nesting season).

Projects that are unable to reduce the impacts below mitigation thresholds through avoidance or minimization and are unable to fully rectify the loss on the project site must perform mitigation away from the project site. In most cases, this offsite compensatory mitigation consists of habitat improvements at a preselected mitigation area; although in some cases, other methods such as acquisition of high quality, at risk lands may be an option.

The siting of mitigation areas are performed within the context of the HCLUP EIS and the BRMP. The BRMP is one of several resource management plans that implement the HCLUP EIS map, designations, policies, and procedures. Mitigation areas consider landscape-scale factors to best enhance or complement existing resources. They include lands that allow in-kind replacement of habitat value lost at the project site and are contained within DOE administered or managed lands including the Hanford Reach National Monument or areas designated for conservation or preservation under the HCLUP EIS. These areas have significant habitat value and serve as a core area of wildlife usage as well as providing a migration corridor within the Hanford Site or between the site and adjacent non-DOE lands. Use of these areas allow balancing the effects of large scale disturbance and habitat fragmentation, while fostering biodiversity of plant and animal species on the Hanford Site.

The BRMP ranks wildlife species and habitats based on the level of concern for each resource (Levels 0-5). BRMP Level 0 and 1 habitats have little ecological value and require no mitigation measures other than compliance with applicable environmental regulations (e.g., Migratory Bird Treaty Act, MBTA). For BRMP Level 2, 3, and 4 habitats, mitigation measures are required if the total project impact after avoidance and minimization is greater than 1.2 acres. Replacement ratios for BRMP Level 2, 3, and 4 habitats are 1:1, 3:1, and 5:1 (respectively). BRMP Level 5 habitats are considered irreplaceable resources (i.e., element occurrences) as there is no practical way to replace or restore a Level 5 habitat if lost. Therefore, mitigation measures are determined on a case-by-case basis. No BRMP Level 5 habitats and resources would be disturbed by the proposed project.

Potential impacts to the various habitats within the project area that would result in the need for onsite rectification and offsite compensatory mitigation to address adverse ecological impacts include the following (see Figure 6). The project area contains 41.4 acres of BRMP Level 4 habitat

with a 5:1 replacement ratio for a total of 207 acres of compensatory mitigation. The project area contains 0.6 acres of BRMP Level 3 habitat with a 3:1 replacement ratio for a total of 1.8 acres of compensatory mitigation. The project area contains 3.7 acres of BRMP Level 2 habitat with a 1:1 replacement ratio for a total of 3.7 acres of compensatory mitigation. Finally, the project area contains 39 acres of BRMP Level 0 habitat, which requires no compensatory mitigation other than compliance with applicable environmental regulations (i.e., MBTA). The total impacted area prior to application of habitat replacement ratios would be 84.7 acres. The estimated compensatory mitigation based on the BRMP habitat levels and related replacement ratios would be 212.5 acres if all land in the project area was impacted. However, final compensatory mitigation requirements are expected to be less and would be based on a field survey of the site following completion of construction activities to determine the actual size of impacted areas.

As previously stated, the total impacted area prior to application of habitat replacement ratios would be 84.7 acres. It should be noted that the remaining 8.6 acres of the 93.3 acre APE for Project L-888 are BRMP Level 4 habitat, which overlaps land previously reviewed for ecological resources under separate and unrelated activities associated with the WTP (see Figure 6 cross hatched area). These include construction of a potable water pipeline to the WTP under Project L-839 (ECR-2019-233) and construction of a WTP equipment and materials laydown area (ECR-2023-210). Compensatory mitigation for the adverse ecological impacts of these WTP projects have been consolidated into a separate revegetation plan, which is the responsibility of DOE-ORP and BNI, and is not included in the compensatory mitigation requirements for Project L-888 (see Figures 7 and 8). Areas that have been revegetated as compensatory mitigation for project impacts to ecological resources are defined in the BRMP as Level 4 habitats with a 5:1 replacement ratio.

Compensatory mitigation requirements described in the BRMP are best management practices incorporated into the project design to reduce environmental impacts to below a threshold of significance. As such, funding for implementation of compensatory mitigation, effectiveness monitoring, and adaptive management are critical to achieving expected outcomes and environmental effects while ensuring informed decision making. Project L-888 would be responsible for providing the funding necessary to implement ecological resource mitigation measures described in the ecological resources clearance letter (ECR-2024-209) and summarized herein.

DOE-RL Ecological Compliance would complete a project-specific compensatory mitigation plan prior to the initiation of vegetation clearing activities. The compensatory mitigation plan would include in-kind actions as well as future monitoring to ensure that mitigation measures are successful. For example, since the proposed project area serves as a refuge for sagebrush obligate species such as the sagebrush sparrow and the black-tailed jackrabbit as well as a corridor for these species and other flora and fauna, site-wide and regional biological resource considerations would be included in the selection of an offsite location to implement compensatory mitigation consistent with the HCLUP EIS and BRMP.

There is always the potential for birds to nest within the project area on the ground, on buildings, or on equipment. The nesting season at the Hanford Site is typically from March through July. The active nests of migratory birds are protected by the "Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918." Personnel working on this project would be instructed by project management to watch for nesting birds. If any nesting birds are encountered or suspected, or bird defensive behaviors are observed within the project area, then project management would contact DOE-RL Ecological Compliance to evaluate the situation.

Land clearing would be performed outside the nesting season for migratory birds to the extent possible. A nesting bird survey would be required if the project intends to perform ground-disturbing activities during the nesting season. Ground clearing activities during nesting season are not authorized until project staff has obtained a copy of the survey results. Project management would contact DOE-RL Ecological Compliance to schedule a nesting bird survey of the project area at least one week prior to initiation of work.

All land areas disturbed by the proposed project that are not needed for continued project use, access, or safety considerations would be replanted using locally derived, native plant species. The "Hanford Site Revegetation Manual" (DOE-RL-2011-116, Rev. 2, September 2013) provides guidance regarding species mix, planting rates, and methods. Revegetation must occur in the first planting window (November through January) after project completion and revegetation planning must occur between January and March of the year prior (7-9 months before the planting window) in order to allow sufficient time to procure plant materials.

The ecological resources review is valid for one year from the date of the clearance letter, which was issued on June 17, 2024. If project activities continue beyond June 17, 2025, then an ecological resources review renewal may become necessary as determined by DOE-RL Ecological Compliance.

CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW (HCRC#2024-200-003)

The DOE-RL Cultural and Historic Resources Program (CHRP) conducted a Cultural Resources Review (CRR) of the proposed project. DOE-RL sent an area of potential effects (APE) notification to the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and regional Native American Tribes on November 27, 2023. CHRP conducted a cultural resources survey on December 20, 2024, and January 3, 2024. No previously unidentified cultural resources were identified in the project APE. DOE-RL transmitted a CRR, with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected, to the SHPO and regional Native American Tribes for a 30-day comment period on March 12, 2024. The SHPO concurred with the findings of the CRR on March 12, 2024. DOE-RL provided a notice of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. §306108) for this project on April 18, 2024.

Project management would direct all workers to watch for cultural resources during all work activities (e.g., mussel shells, bone, stone artifacts, burned rocks, charcoal, arrowheads, stone flakes, cans, bottles, etc.). In the event project personnel encounter cultural resources during project activities, work in the vicinity of the discovery would stop until a DOE-RL CHRP Cultural Resources Specialist has been contacted, the significance of the find assessed, appropriate consulting parties notified, and if necessary, arrangements made for mitigation of the find. DOE-RL CHRP anticipates no impacts to cultural resources from proposed project activities.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The proposed project would generate small amounts of non-radioactive hazardous waste, solid waste, and construction debris. The volume of waste would be mitigated by implementing best management practices for pollution prevention and waste minimization involving source reduction or material substitution; reuse of waste materials to minimize disposal; and recycling of waste materials that cannot be minimized or eliminated. Hazardous waste, solid waste, and construction debris would be managed in accordance with WAC 173-303, "Dangerous Waste Regulations"; WAC 173-350, "Solid Waste Handling Standards"; WAC 173-350-410, "Inert Waste Landfills"; and other regulations, as applicable.

Waste would be managed in accordance with existing Hanford Site protocols, policies, and procedures. If, during the course of construction, the project generates construction waste that cannot be released from a radiological perspective, then this waste material would be disposed of onsite per applicable requirements. Recyclable materials, construction waste, and other related materials may be processed offsite (after radiological release) with the approval of the construction manager. Recycling and/or reuse of materials generated during the project would be considered in accordance with sustainability requirements. All subcontractor related products and materials, hazardous or non-hazardous, would be removed from the job site upon completion of work. Efforts would be made to avoid generating waste during the project. In addition to federal and state regulatory requirements, waste management requirements specific to the Hanford Site would also apply. Subcontractors would work closely with the construction manager to ensure waste is properly managed.

PERMITS AND LICENSES

The Proposed Action would require permits and licenses for construction activities and operation of the facility to ensure environmental protection and pollution control. Project management would obtain required permits and licenses including, but not limited to, excavation permits, air permits, underground injection control well permits, onsite sewage permits, and other permits and licenses, as applicable. Project management would support the preparation of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist (WAC 197-11, SEPA Rules), as requested by state agencies for submittal in conjunction with permit and license applications or other approvals.

DOE-RL would determine whether a Washington State Department of Health (WDOH) Project Report is required during design of the Eastern Plateau Fire Station. If required, then a WDOH Project Report would be prepared in accordance with WAC 246-290 to be submitted and approved prior to

construction. Upon construction completion, a Project Construction Completion Report would be submitted to the WDOH within 60 days. The subcontractor would have a current Washington State Professional Engineer for each discipline to stamp and sign the appropriate design documentation and WDOH Project Report.

CONCLUSION

The Proposed Action would be addressed by 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, Categorical Exclusion B1.15, "Support Buildings," and meets the requirements for categorically excluded activities (10 CFR 1021.410) and the conditions that are integral elements (10 CFR 1021, subpart D, appendix B, section B1) without extraordinary circumstances where a normally excluded action would have significant effects. A federal agency may define extraordinary circumstances so that a particular situation, such as the presence of a protected resource, is not considered an extraordinary circumstance per se, but a factor to consider when determining if there are extraordinary circumstances, such as a significant impact to that resource.

If an extraordinary circumstance exists, the agency nevertheless may categorically exclude the Proposed Action if the agency conducts an analysis and determines that the action does not have the potential for significant effects notwithstanding the extraordinary circumstance, or the agency modifies the action to avoid significant effects. Categorical exclusions may include mitigation measures that, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, would ensure that environmental effects are not significant, so long as a process is established for monitoring and enforcing any required mitigation measures [40 CFR 1501.4(b)(1) and (d)(3)]. The existence of extraordinary circumstances may require additional NEPA review, as determined by the DOE Hanford Site NCO. Categorical exclusions include activities foreseeably necessary to implement the proposed action in accordance with 10 CFR 1021.410(d), such as award of grants and contracts, site preparation, purchase and installation of equipment, and associated transportation activities.

This NEPA Review Screening Form only applies to the Proposed Action described herein. Any changes to the Proposed Action or future requests to construct support buildings would be evaluated and approved by the DOE Hanford Site NCO and may require additional NEPA, cultural, and ecological reviews.

III. Existing Evaluations *(Provide with NRSF to DOE NCO)*:

Maps:

Figure 1 – Project L-888, Approximate Location of Eastern Plateau Fire Station – Location 1A
Figure 2 – Alternative Locations for Siting Eastern Plateau Fire Station – Location 1A Preferred
Figure 3 - Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS Proposed Land Use Map
Figure 4 - Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan - Land Use Map
Figure 5 – Project L-888, Eastern Plateau Fire Station Area of Potential Effects – Location 1A
Figure 6 - Project L-888, Eastern Plateau Fire Station Project - Biological Resources and Habitats
Figure 7 - Project Area for WTP Equipment and Materials Laydown Area (ECR-2023-210) Including Potable Water Pipeline Corridor under Project L-839 (ECR-2019-233)
Figure 8 - Aerial View of WTP Equipment and Materials Laydown Area at Intersection of Canton Avenue and WTP Loop Road in 200 East Area

Other Attachments:

N/A

IV. List Applicable CX(s) from Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021:

B1.15, Support Buildings

NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM 3 **Categorically Excluded Actions** (Continued)	**Document ID #:** DOE/CX-00234

V. Integral Elements and Extraordinary Circumstances ***(See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Class of Actions in Appendix B; and 10 CFR 1021.410(b)(2) under Application of Categorical Exclusions)***	**Yes**	**No**
Are there extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action? If yes, describe them.	○	◉
Is the proposed action connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or that could result in cumulatively significant impacts? If yes, describe them.	○	◉
Would the proposed action threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements related to the environment, safety, health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders?	○	◉
Would the proposed action require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities?	○	◉
Would the proposed action disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or natural gas products already in the environment such that there might be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases?	○	◉
Would the proposed action have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources? See examples in Appendix B(4) to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.	○	◉
Would the proposed action involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, such that the action is not contained or confined in a manner designed, operated, and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements to prevent unauthorized release into the environment?	○	◉

If "No" to all questions above, complete Section VI, and provide NRSF and any attachments to DOE NCO for review.
If "Yes" to any of the questions above, contact DOE NCO for additional NEPA review.

VI. Responsible Organization's Signatures:

Initiator:

Jerry W. Cammann, HMIS/NEPA SME
Print First and Last Name

JERRY CAMMANN (Affiliate)
Digitally signed by JERRY CAMMANN (Affiliate)
Date: 2024.07.23 15:03:40 -07'00'
Signature / Date

Cognizant Program/Project Representative:

Kevin E. Watkins, DOE-RL/SESD
Print First and Last Name

Kevin E. Watkins
Digitally signed by Kevin E. Watkins
Date: 2024.07.26 10:42:25 -07'00'
Signature / Date

VII. DOE NEPA Compliance Officer Approval/Determination:

Based on my review of information conveyed to me concerning the proposed action, the proposed action fits within the specified CX(s): ☒ Yes ☐ No

Douglas H. Chapin, DOE Hanford Site NCO
Print First and Last Name

Douglas H. Chapin
Digitally signed by Douglas H. Chapin
Date: 2024.07.29 12:04:05 -07'00'
Signature / Date

NCO Comments:

DOE/CX-00234

FIGURES

ACTIVITY-SPECIFIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR PROJECT L-888, EASTERN PLATEAU FIRE STATION

9 Pages (including this page)

Figure 1. Project L-888, Approximate Location of Eastern Plateau Fire Station – Location 1A

Figure 2. Alternative Locations for Siting Eastern Plateau Fire Station – Location 1A Preferred

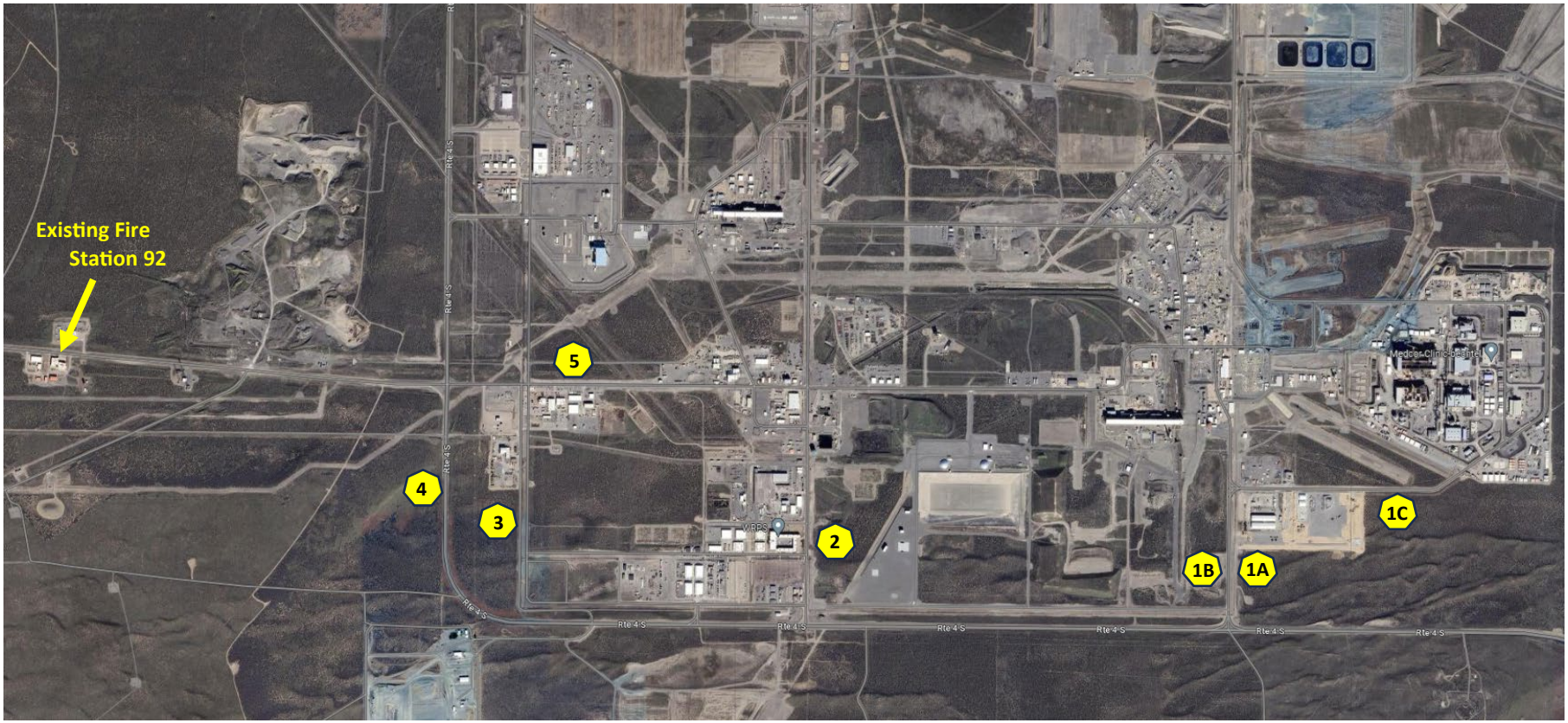
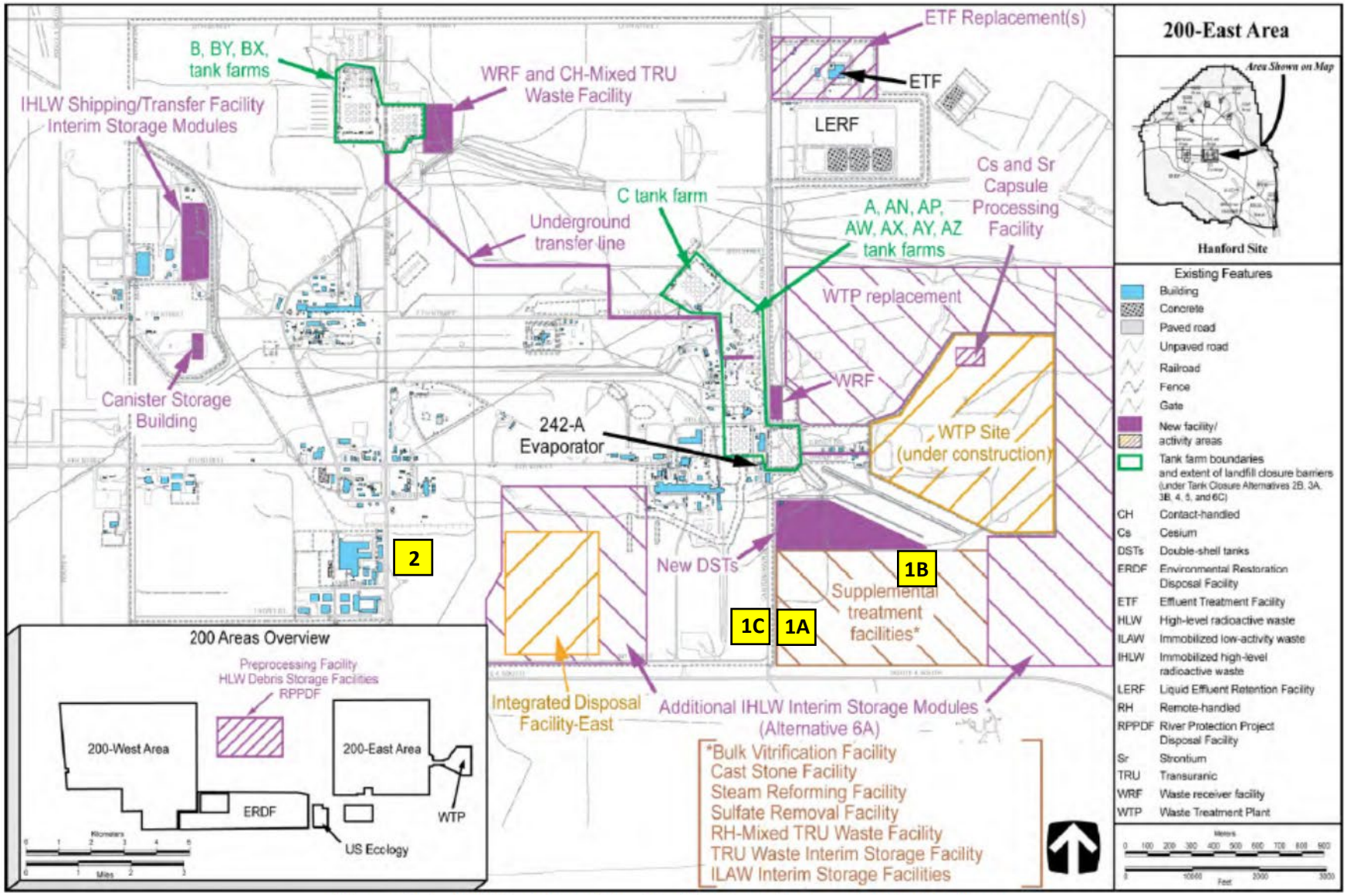
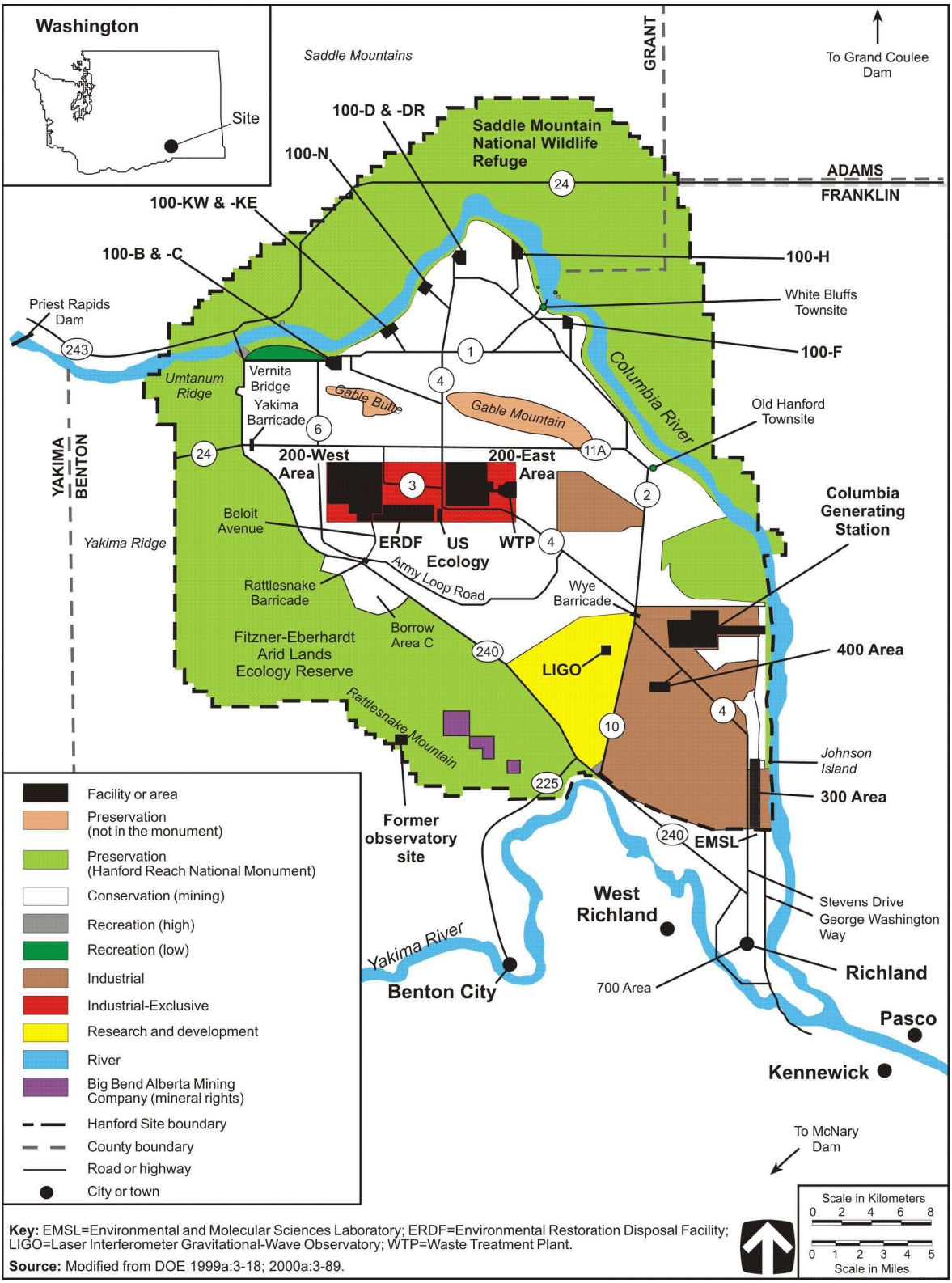


Figure 3. Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS Proposed Land Use Map



Alternative Locations 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2 for Eastern Plateau Fire Station

Figure 4. Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Land Use Map



Key: EMSL=Environmental and Molecular Sciences Laboratory; ERDF=Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility; LIGO=Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory; WTP=Waste Treatment Plant.

Source: Modified from DOE 1999a:3-18; 2000a:3-89.

Figure 5. Project L-888, Eastern Plateau Fire Station Area of Potential Effects – Location 1A

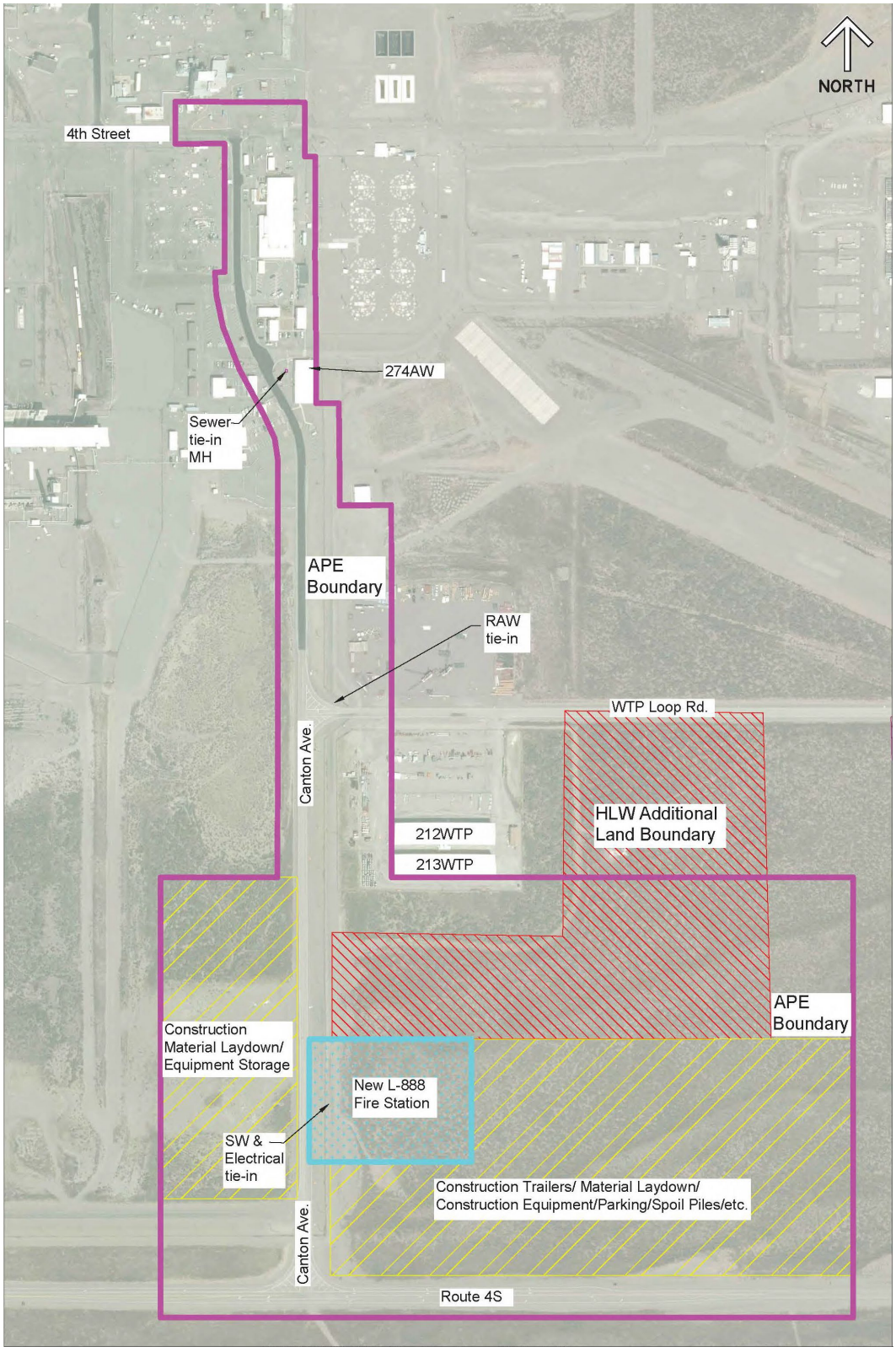


Figure 6. Project L-888 Eastern Plateau Fire Station – Biological Resources and Habitats

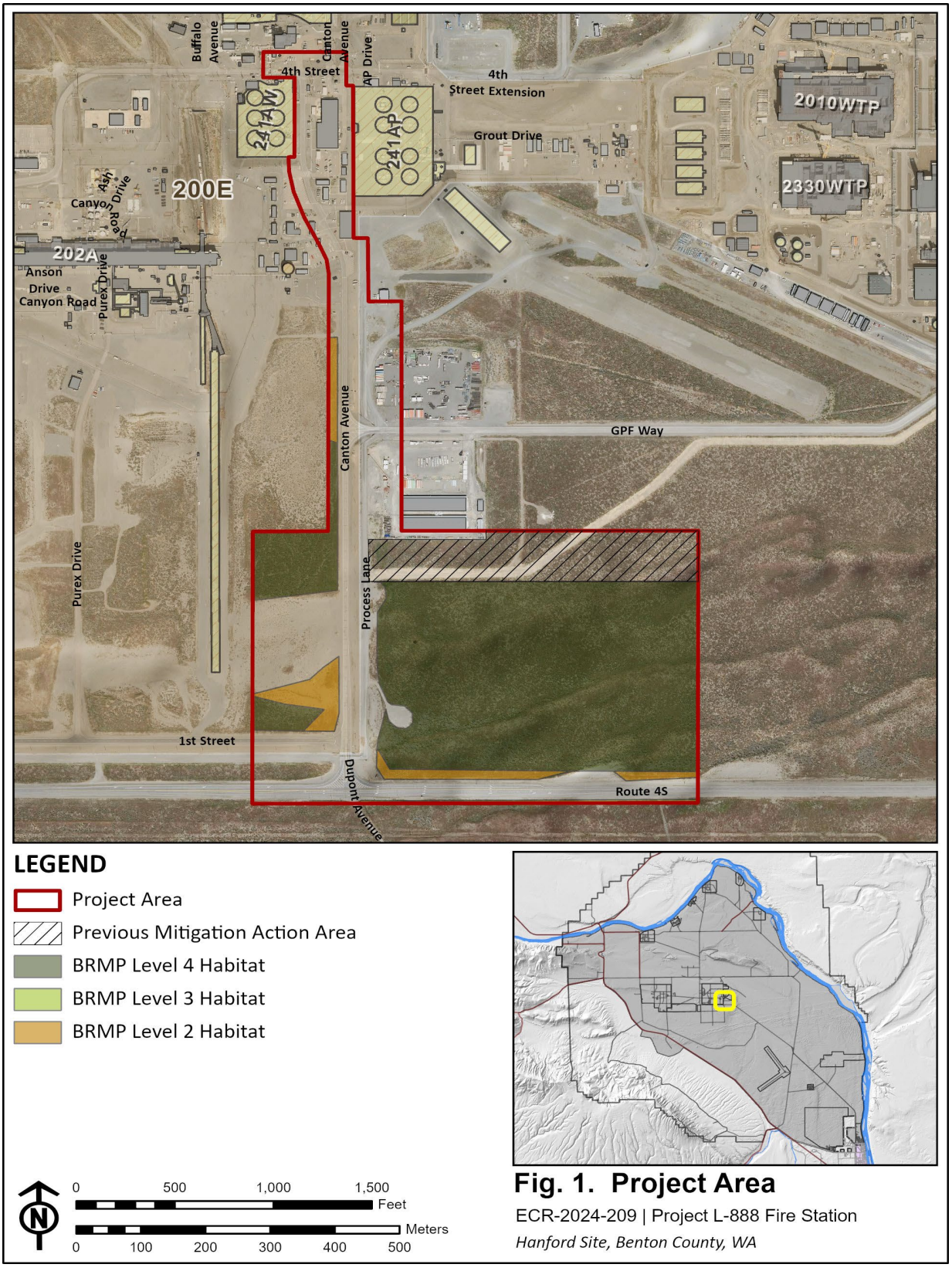


Fig. 1. Project Area

ECR-2024-209 | Project L-888 Fire Station

Hanford Site, Benton County, WA

Figure 7. Project Area for WTP Equipment and Materials Laydown Area (ECR-2023-210) Including Potable Water Pipeline Corridor under Project L-839 (ECR-2019-233)

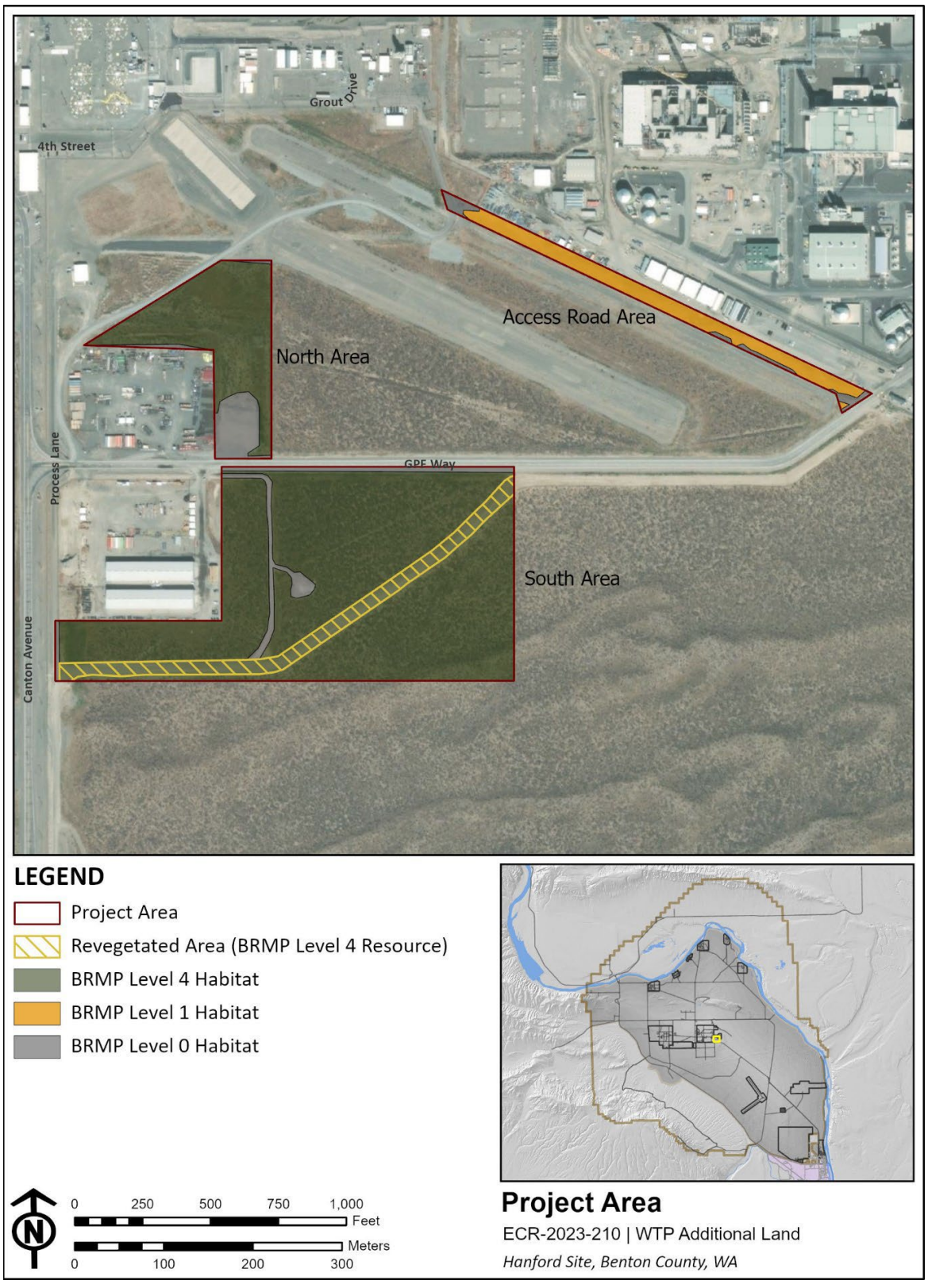


Figure 8. Aerial View of WTP Equipment and Materials Laydown Area at Intersection of Canton Avenue and WTP Loop Road in 200 East Area