



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: REMOVAL OF A FENCE NEAR DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OAK RIDGE RESERVATION (ORR) BOUNDARY, OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE (CX-ORR-27)

Program or Field Office: Oak Ridge Reservation

Location: Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Proposed Action Description:

As part of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) / Wildland Fire Response and Forest Stewardship planning efforts, a fence that parallels a portion of the northern boundary of the ORR has been identified as hindrance to kindling reduction efforts as well as evacuation and/or response routes. From a security posture, the fence is no longer required for protecting DOE assets on the ORR. Therefore, DOE is proposing to remove this fence.

The fence is approximately a six-foot-tall, chain linked in construct, and has barbed wires running along the upper portion. Proposed fence removal efforts would focus on an approximately one-mile stretch. The fence has suffered damaged from tree and/or limb falls, and the intact portions shows general degradation and rusting.

Private properties located adjacent to the DOE ORR are buffered from the fence by approximately ~25 feet of land and proposed demolition activities would not impact private properties or the greenway. The fence, concrete footers, and additional waste would be characterized, packaged, and certified as required by the pre-approved disposal facility.

Early forestry planning maps indicate that the fence was likely constructed between the years of 1949 and 1953. While no additional information regarding the fence installation has been obtained, it is reasonable to infer that the fence was installed to provide an additional security barrier to the public in the post-Manhattan Project property transition that established federal lands from the City of Oak Ridge. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, DOE in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, see attachment, has determined that the fence does not exhibit the necessary criteria to be listed as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. If any artifacts are discovered during the proposed activity, all work would immediately cease until appropriate NHPA reviews and actions are completed.

No sensitive plants or animals are expected to be affected by the proposed project activities.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.23 - Demolition and disposal of buildings

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#). Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would 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, Subpart D, 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, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)) and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The above description accurately describes the proposed action, which reflects the requirements of the CX cited above. Therefore, I recommend that the proposed action be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Program Point of Contact: _____ on behalf of _____
John C. Shewairy, DOE-SC-OSO
Reservation Management
3/8/2023
Date Determined

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Policy 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: _____
Peter R. Siebach, DOE-SC-41.1
DOE-SC-OSO NEPA Compliance Officer
Date Determined



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
www.tnhistoricalcommission.org

2023-03-02 10:03:52 CST

Ms. Katatra Vasquez
Department of Energy
Katatra.Vasquez@Science.doe.gov

RE: Department of Energy (DOE), Removal of Fence near Oak Ridge Reservation Boundary,
Project#: SHPO0002640, Oak Ridge, Anderson County, Roane County, TN

Dear Ms. Vasquez:

In response to your request, we have reviewed the cultural resources survey report and accompanying documentation submitted by you regarding the above-referenced undertaking. Our review of and comment on your proposed undertaking are among the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This Act requires federal agencies or applicants for federal assistance to consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office before they carry out their proposed undertakings. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has codified procedures for carrying out Section 106 review in 36 CFR 800 (Federal Register, December 12, 2000, 77698-77739).

Considering the information provided, we find that no historic properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this undertaking. If project plans are changed or archaeological remains are discovered during project construction, please contact this office to determine what further action, if any, will be necessary to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Please provide your Project # when submitting any additional information regarding this undertaking. Questions or comments may be directed to Kelley Reid, who drafted this response, at Kelley.Reid@tn.gov, +16157701099.

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer
