

**GENERIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR PROPERTY
TRANSFERS, PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY,
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON**

Proposed Action:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Pacific Northwest Site Office (PNSO) proposes to transfer, lease, disposition, or acquire interests in personal property or real property.

Location of Action:

The proposed action would occur in the vicinity of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) campuses in Richland and Sequim, Washington, and elsewhere in the United State in support of PNNL research or operational activities.

Description of the Proposed Action:

DOE proposes to transfer, lease, disposition, or acquire personal property, such as equipment and materials as well as real property such as land and permanent structures.

Examples of such activities include, but are not limited to:

- Lease or purchase facilities and/or land from private or public entities. The lease or purchase would not result in a change in facility or land use impacts
- Conveyance of facilities and/or land to private or public entities. The conveyance would not result in a change in facility or land use impacts
- Acquire equipment or materials, such as computers and office supplies, for laboratory operations
- Disposition outdated laboratory, field, or office equipment
- Lease of vehicles or other equipment to support research or laboratory operations.

The proposed action must meet the DOE categorical exclusion (CX) eligibility criteria (10 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1021.410) and the following criteria:

- There would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment
- The proposed action would not cause a significant change in impacts from before the transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of the interest in the property.

Biological and Cultural Resources:

Biological and cultural resources reviews will be conducted prior to such activities to assure

that impacts to sensitive resources are avoided or minimized.

The biological resources review will identify the occurrence of federally and state-protected species and habitats in the project area such as avian species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA); species protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA); essential fish habitat as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MSA); plant and animal species and critical habitat protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including candidates for such protection; and state species listed as threatened or endangered. Resource review recommendations will be followed during property transfer activities to assure there are no adverse impacts to sensitive species and resources.

DOE will conduct a cultural resources review as part of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Section 106 process assesses undertakings to determine if the undertaking will have an adverse effect/impact to historic properties.

If the biological and/or the cultural resources review determines that resources may be adversely affected/impacted, the use of this CX would be reevaluated. Potential options could be, but are not limited to, changing the proposed activity location, the development of mitigation measures to render the impacts not significant, or the performance of additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and review.

Categorical Exclusion to Be Applied:

As the proposed action is to transfer, lease, disposition, and acquire interests in personal and real property, the following CX, as listed in the DOE NEPA implementing procedures, 10 CFR 1021, would apply:

B1.24 Transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in personal property (including, but not limited to, equipment and materials) or real property (including, but not limited to, permanent structures and land), provided that under reasonably foreseeable uses (1) there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment and (2) the covered actions would not have the potential to cause a significant change in impacts from before the transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests.

Generic CXs are authorized by 10 CFR 1021.410(f) for recurring activities to be undertaken during a specified period of time, after considering potential aggregated impacts.

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 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 environmental impact statement preparation.

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

INTEGRAL ELEMENTS, 10 CFR 1021, SUBPART D, Appendix B (1)-(5)	
<i>Would the Proposed Action:</i>	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 generated waste would be managed in accordance with applicable regulations in existing facilities. Waste disposal pathways would be identified prior to generating waste and waste generation would be minimized.
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 or results in uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.
Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species?	The proposed action would not involve the use of genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species.
Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protected historic/archaeological resources • protected biological resources and habitat • jurisdictional wetlands, 100-year floodplains • Federal- or state-designated parks and wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, marine sanctuaries, national natural landmarks, and scenic areas. 	<p>No environmentally sensitive resources would be adversely affected by the proposed transfer actions.</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> <p>Potential impacts to Biological or Cultural resources would be addressed as described above.</p>

Summary of Environmental Impacts:

The following table summarizes environmental impacts considered when preparing this CX determination.

Environmental Impacts Considered when Preparing this CX Determination	
<i>Would the Proposed Action:</i>	Evaluation

Result in more than minimal air impacts?	Property transfers would not have more than minimal air impacts.
Increase offsite radiation dose measurably?	Property transfers would not increase offsite doses; materials not cleared for public release may not be transferred under this CX.
Require a radiological work permit?	Property transfers would not require work in radiological areas or require radiological work permits.
Discharge any liquids to the environment?	Property transfers would not discharge any liquids to the environment.
Require a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures plan?	Property transfers would not require a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures plan.
Use carcinogens, hazardous, or toxic chemicals/materials?	Carcinogenic, hazardous, or toxic chemicals or materials might be purchased or transferred to another party for reuse; chemicals and materials would be handled according to PNNL procedures and would not be released to the environment.
Involve hazardous, radioactive, polychlorinated biphenyl, or asbestos waste?	Hazardous, radioactive, PCB, or asbestos waste would not be handled or transferred under this CX.
Cause more than a minor or temporary increase in noise level?	Property transfers would not increase ambient noise levels.
Create light / glare, or other aesthetic impacts?	Property transfers would not cause light, glare, or other aesthetic impacts.
Require an excavation permit (e.g., for test pits, wells, utility installation)?	No excavation would be conducted under this property transfer CX.
Disturb an undeveloped area?	Property transfers would not disturb undeveloped areas.
Result in more than minimal impacts on transportation or public services?	Property transfers would not affect transportation or public services.
Disproportionately impact low-income or minority populations?	Property transfers would not disproportionately affect low-income or minority populations.
Require environmental or other permits from federal, state, or local agencies?	No special environmental or other permits are expected to be needed for most property transfers. If a specific permit is required for the transfer of a particular type of property, the permit will be acquired prior to the property transfer and activities will abide by all applicable permit requirements.

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, I have determined

that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation. This determination must be reviewed at least once every 5 years.

Signature: _____
Tom McDermott
PNSO NEPA Compliance Officer

cc: ES Norris, PNNL