

# **Sitewide 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 on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) site and the Marine Sciences Laboratory and in the vicinity of PNNL facilities in the State of Washington.

## **Description of the Proposed Action**

DOE proposes to transfer, lease, disposition, or acquire personal property including, but not limited to, equipment and materials as well as real property including, but not limited to, land and permanent structures. Examples of such activities include, but are not limited to:

- Lease facilities and/or land from private or public entities. The lease would not result in a change in facility or land use
- 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- Disposition outdated laboratory, field or office equipment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 for laboratory operations.

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

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
2. 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**

It is not likely that the transferring, leasing, dispositioning, or acquiring interests in personal and real property would result in adverse impacts to sensitive biological or cultural resources. However, if special project circumstances warrant it, biological and cultural resource reviews would be conducted to assure that impacts to sensitive resources are avoided and minimized.

## **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 DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (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.

## **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 in Table 1.

**Table 1. Integral Elements, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B (1)-(5)**

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 generated waste would be managed in accordance with applicable regulations in existing facilities. Waste disposal pathways are identified prior to generating waste and waste generation is 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 results in uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.
Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources., including, but not limited, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protected historic/archaeological resources</li> <li>• protected biological resources and habitat</li> <li>• jurisdictional wetlands, 100-year floodplains</li> <li>• Federally- or state-designated parks and wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, marine sanctuaries, national natural landmarks, and scenic areas.</li> </ul>	No environmentally sensitive resources would be adversely affected. Resource reviews would be conducted for special circumstances. Refer to the Biological and Cultural Resources section for details regarding the application of cultural and biological resource reviews.  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.
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, 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.

**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: 4/30/12  
 Theresa Aldridge  
 PNSO NEPA Compliance Officer