

NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) 3A
Categorically Excluded Actions

Document ID #:
DOE/CX-00189

I. Project Title:

Activity-Specific Categorical Exclusion for Project L-919, Emergency Radio System Upgrade

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 Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office, Security, Emergency Services and Information Division proposes to upgrade the Hanford Emergency Radio System (HERS) to address obsolescence of this mission critical communications system for public safety and emergency response (Project L-919). The HERS uses radio repeater equipment located on Rattlesnake Mountain at the Combined Community Communications Facility (CCCF) and at the east end of Gable Mountain including various end-user devices (i.e., portable, mobile, and base station radios). Upgrading the system with modern equipment would alleviate concerns regarding system failure, stability, reliability, and safety, while ensuring regulatory compliance.

DOE would discontinue use of radio towers, antennas, and repeater facilities on Gable Mountain; however, radio system components or facilities would not be removed at this time. Proposed HERS upgrades may result in one additional radio repeater site to maintain coverage lost with discontinued use of radio system infrastructure on Gable Mountain. The radio repeater site would be determined based on functional testing.

The proposed project includes installation of radio repeaters and system control equipment at the CCCF on Rattlesnake Mountain, 2220E Switch Gear Building in 200-East Area, and the 622/622A Meteorological Tower on the Central Plateau (see Figures 1, 2, and 3). Work proposed at the 2220E Switch Gear Building would only occur inside the existing building to install wireless equipment that communicates with radio repeaters. Radio repeaters would be installed inside existing buildings at the CCCF and the 622/622A Meteorological Tower, and would be connected to radio antennas using coaxial cable installed in existing overhead cable trays. Radio antennas would be installed on existing towers at the CCCF and the 622/622A Meteorological Tower.

A metal shed measuring 10-feet by 30-feet would be constructed at the base of the 622/622A Meteorological Tower on a concrete pad. The metal shed would house a propane powered generator and battery backup power system. A 500-gallon propane tank would be installed near the metal shed on a concrete pad. A powerline and fiber optic cable would be installed on existing poles to the 622/622A Meteorological Tower and metal shed, with one new pole near the metal shed.

Ground disturbing activities would include excavations for concrete footings, gas line between the propane tank and the metal shed, new pole near the metal shed, and installation of electrical conduit. All excavations would be within existing right-of-ways and utility or transportation corridors.

ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEW (ECR-2019-602). Project areas at the 2220E Switch Gear Building and CCCF are in non-vegetated and routinely maintained industrial areas covered with gravel. Gravel covered areas are Level 0 resources as defined in the Hanford Biological Resources Management Plan (BRMP; DOE/RL-96-32 Revision 2) and do not require compensatory mitigation. The proposed project would not result in adverse ecological impacts at the 2220E Switch Gear Building or the CCCF.

DOE Ecological Compliance performed a field survey at the 622/622A Meteorological Tower in April of 2018. The project area contains buildings, graveled and paved surfaces, access roads, and patches of native and non-native vegetation. Several bird species and signs of coyote were observed. These findings are consistent with the definition of BRMP Level 3 resources designated for conservation.

DOE Ecological Compliance would direct workers to minimize disturbance of the native shrub cover, perform a survey during the bird nesting season (typically from mid-March to mid-July), and instruct workers to watch for nesting birds. If workers encounter or suspect nesting birds, or observe bird defensive behaviors, then project management would contact DOE Ecological Compliance to evaluate the situation. Adverse impacts to ecological resources are not anticipated.

CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW (HCRC-2008-600-004, HCRC-2017-600-002). DOE Cultural and Historic Resources Program conducted a cultural resources review at the CCCF on November 27, 2018. All

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National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 requirements for this undertaking have been met (HCRC-2008-600-004). The cultural resources review determined that activities at the CCCF would have the potential for adverse effects to historic properties. The consulting parties signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on July 30, 2009 (HCRC-2008-600-004) to mitigate adverse effects. DOE would implement work controls stipulated in the MOA.

Proposed project activities would take place inside the 2220E Switch Gear Building and do not require a cultural resources review.

DOE Cultural and Historic Resources Program conducted a cultural resources review at the 622/622A Meteorological Tower on November 27, 2018. DOE has met all NHPA Section 106 requirements for this undertaking (HCRC-2017-600-002). Figure 4 identifies the project area previously reviewed by HCRC-2017-600-002.

Adverse impacts to cultural resources are not anticipated. Project management would direct workers to watch for cultural materials (e.g., bones, stone tools, mussel shell, cans, and bottles) during work activities. If workers encounter any cultural materials, then work near the discovery would stop until project management notifies a DOE Cultural and Historic Resources Program archaeologist to assess the significance of the find, contact appropriate Tribes, and if necessary, arrange for mitigation of the find.

CONCLUSION. DOE's NEPA implementing procedures found at 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, Categorical Exclusion (CX) B1.19, "Microwave, Meteorological, and Radio Towers" address the proposed project. Any changes to the proposed project would require DOE NEPA Compliance Officer approval.

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

Ecological Review Report No. and Title:

MSA-1805272, "Ecological Clearance for L-919, Upgrades to the Emergency Radio System across the Hanford Site, (ECR-2019-602," dated December 18, 2018.

Cultural Review Report No. and Title:

MSA-1805391, "Cultural Resource Clearance for L-919, Upgrades to the Emergency Radio System at the 2220E and 622 Facilities on the Hanford Site, Benton County, Washington (HCRC-2017-600-002)," dated December 19, 2018; and MSA-1805372, "Cultural Resource Clearance for L-919, Upgrades to the Emergency Radio System, Consolidation of Infrastructure at CCCF in the 600 Area of the Hanford Site, Benton County, Washington (HCRC-2008-600-004)," dated December 19, 2018.

Maps:

- Figure 1. Project Area for the 622/622A Meteorological Tower on the Central Plateau
- Figure 2. Project Area for the 2220E Switch Gear Building in 200-East Area
- Figure 3. Project Area for the CCCF on Rattlesnake Mountain
- Figure 4. Metal Storage Shed and Propane Tank Location at 622/622A Meteorological Tower

Other Attachments:

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

B1.19, "Microwave, Meteorological, and Radio Towers"

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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Is the proposed action connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or that could result in cumulatively significant impacts? If yes, describe them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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, MSA/NEPA-SME
Print First and Last Name

Jerry W. Cammann
Signature

1/7/2019
Date

Cognizant Program/Project Representative:

Mike W. Eddy, Deputy CIO/SEI
Print First and Last Name

MEddy
Signature

1/10/2019
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

Diori L. Kreske, DOE-NCO
Print First and Last Name

Diori Kreske
Signature

1/15/19
Date

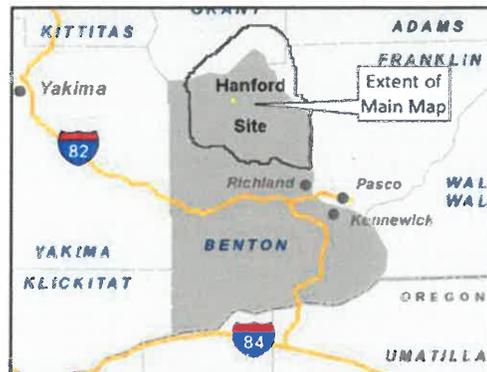
NCO Comments:

Figure 1. Project Area for the 622/622A Meteorological Tower on the Central Plateau



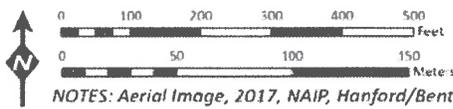
Legend

 622 Tower Project Area (Covered by ECR-2018-622)



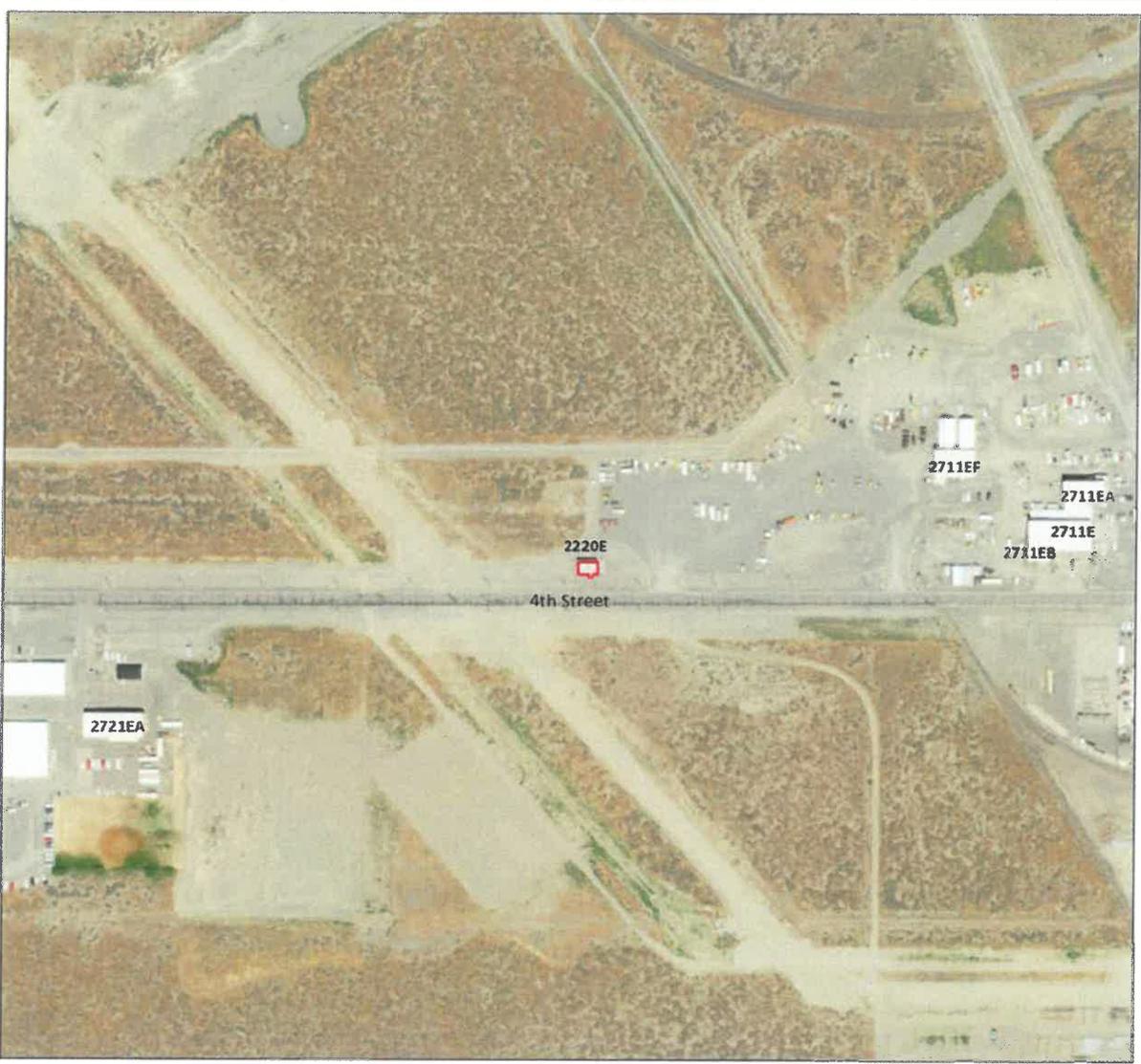
Project Area - 622 Tower

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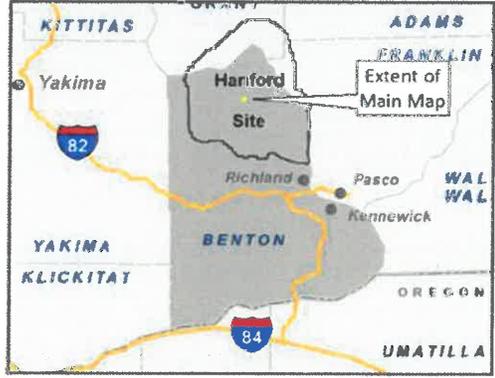


NOTES: Aerial Image, 2017, NAIP, Hanford/Benton County.

Figure 2. Project Area for the 2220E Switch Gear Building in 200-East Area



Legend
 2220E



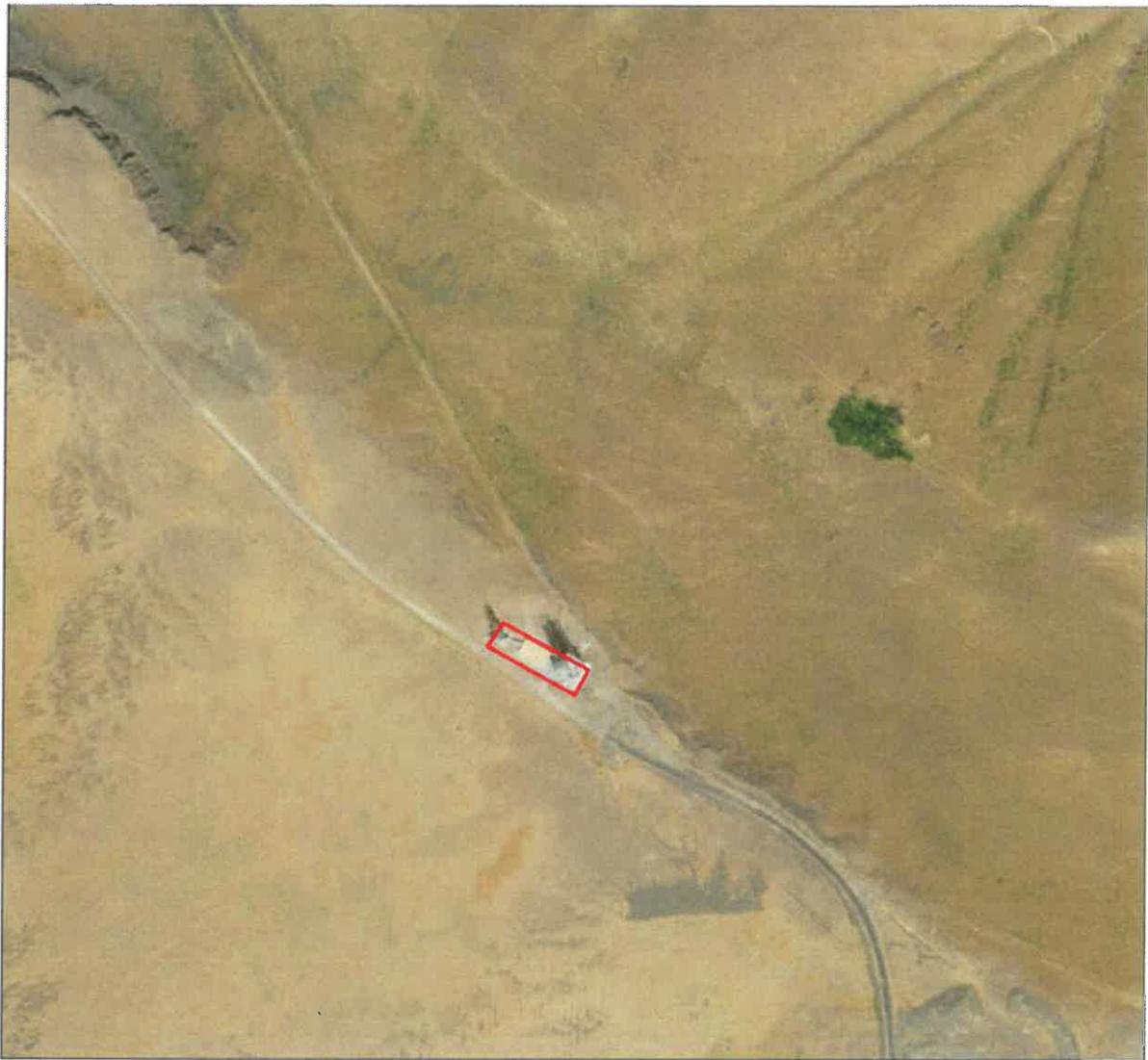
Project Area - 2220E

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0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet
 0 50 100 150 200 Meters

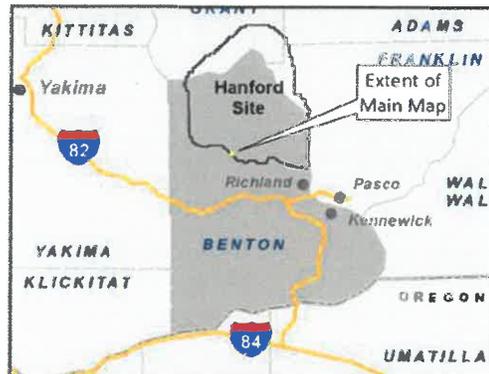
NOTES: Aerial Image, 2017, NAIP, Hanford/Benton County

Figure 3. Project Area for the CCCF on Rattlesnake Mountain



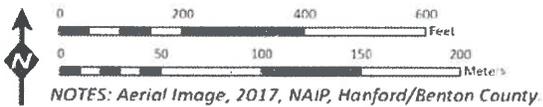
Legend

 CCCF Building/Tower



Project Area - CCCF Building/Tower

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NOTES: Aerial Image, 2017, NAIP, Hanford/Benton County.

Figure 4. Metal Storage Shed and Propane Tank Location at 622/622A Meteorological Tower



Esri, USDA Farm Service Agency

Legend

-  Approximate Hut Location
-  Approximate Propane Tank/Pad Location
-  622 & 622A Facilities
-  Revised APE HCRC#2017-600-002

Gable Butte, WA 7.5' USGS Quad
 Township 12 N Range 26 E Section 6
 Township 13 N Range 26 E Sections 31 & 32



Aerial Imagery, 2017, NAIP



Project Areas--622 Tower
 HCRC#2017-600-002
 Hanford Site, Benton County, WA