

**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) Campus in Richland Washington, the Marine Sciences Laboratory near 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 including, 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
- Conveyance of facilities and/or land to private or public entities. The conveyance 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- Disposition outdated laboratory, field, or office equipment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 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:**

The proposed actions are not likely to result in adverse impacts to sensitive biological or cultural resources. Activities, such as excavation, that could cause impacts to cultural or biological resources are not included in the scope of this generic Categorical Exclusion (CX). If

any property transfer includes activities that would trigger a biological and/or cultural resource review, or have the potential to affect biological or cultural resources, supporting cultural and biological reviews would be conducted as required, and any related consultations would be completed prior to implementation of the property transfer.

If the biological and/or cultural resource review determines that significant resources may be adversely affected, the conclusions of this categorical exclusion (CX) would need to be reevaluated, and either the site would not be used, mitigation measures would be developed to render the impacts not significant, or additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and review would be performed.

**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 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.

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:

<b>INTEGRAL ELEMENTS, 10 CFR 1021, SUBPART D, Appendix B (1)-(5)</b>	
<b>Would the Proposed Action:</b>	<b>EVALUATION:</b>
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.

<b>INTEGRAL ELEMENTS, 10 CFR 1021, SUBPART D, Appendix B (1)-(5)</b>	
<b>Would the Proposed Action:</b>	<b>EVALUATION:</b>
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 (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).
<p>Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources., including, but not limited, to:</p> <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>• Federal- 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>	<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.

<i>Would the Proposed Action:</i>	Evaluation
Result in more than minimal air impacts?	Property transfers would not have 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.

Would the Proposed Action:	Evaluation
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 transfer 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.

**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 451.1 B, Change 3, 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: 

Date: 12-8-17

Tom McDermott, PNSO NEPA Compliance Officer

cc: MR Sackschewsky, PNNL