



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Seismic Safety and Modernization Project, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (**LB-CX-19-04**)

Program or Field Office: Bay Area Site Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Berkeley, California

Proposed Action Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to address several seismic and related safety issues at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL, Berkeley Lab, or the Lab) by undertaking the following actions: demolish and reconstruct the Lab's current cafeteria and conferencing center (Bldg. 54), relocate Health Services and Human Resources personnel to the new facility, reinforce portions of the Lab's Firehouse (Bldg. 48), improve pedestrian and traffic routing in the Lab's "Central Commons" area, and extend the Parcel 21 ground lease. These actions would remove occupants from buildings with substandard seismic ratings while simultaneously securing facilities and personnel that have critical emergency functions. These actions would result in a marginal net increase in LBNL site facility space but would not be expected to increase the Lab's onsite population.

The proposed action would first demolish and remove Building 54, expected to commence around November, 2020. After demolition, a new "Welcome Center" facility with cafeteria, conference, health services, and office functions would be constructed in the previous building's location. The Welcome Center would include a new loading dock and parking area that would allow for more efficient use by shuttle buses, visitor drop-offs, delivery trucks, and pedestrians. Simultaneous to this work, a critical portion of the Lab's on-site firehouse would be seismically reinforced; the firehouse would remain in operation during this time. During SSM construction, cafeteria functions would be provided by commissioned food trucks at one or more LBNL locations. Upon completion of the new Welcome Center, cafeteria functions would be restored at the site. Approximately 16 Health Services personnel residing in Building 26 would be relocated into the Welcome Center along with approximately 16 human resources personnel currently located in Building 90 and Building 65. Building 26 would be left vacant and would not be reused. The proposed action is expected to be completed by mid-2024.

The Welcome Center would be a two-story, approximately 45,000-square-foot, steel-frame structure stepped in the southwesterly-facing hillside of Berkeley Lab's "Central Commons" area. It would provide space for approximately 50 office workers and cafeteria staff, with a peak occupant capacity to accommodate up to 260 conference attendees, approximately 300 indoor cafeteria guests, and approximately 10 visitors (human resources and/or health center), for a total peak building occupancy of up to about 625 staff and guests. In addition, outdoor cafeteria seating would be provided for an additional 100 guests. The Welcome Center is designed for LEED Gold certification: it would include state-of-the-art kitchen and mechanical systems designed to reduce energy consumption; plumbing and low-flow fixtures would deliver an expected 30-40% reduction in domestic water use. No hazards or hazardous wastes (beyond ordinary office and kitchen-related hazards and chemicals in current use at Buildings 54, 48, and 26) would be stored, employed, or produced by the Welcome Center. Parking space would be similar to current conditions (about 65 stalls), but improved bus and pedestrian access would encourage alternate forms of transportation. Where practicable, portions of site stormwater would be directed into lined planters and landscaping for biofiltration before routing into the existing stormwater system to improve stormwater quality and flow rates. Approximately four trees – non-native Monterey pines – would be removed. Replacement landscaping would include native, drought-tolerant, fire-resistant plant varieties.

Building 54 was constructed in 1950 and was substantially altered, added onto, and/or remodeled in 1961, 1966, 1994, 1998, and 2005; it has been evaluated by a certified historian in 2012 and was found not to meet eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Demolition would likely encounter small amounts of asbestos and lead-based paints; these would be handled in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements and the terms of a Bay Area Air Quality Management District demolition permit. Debris are expected to be transported to a permitted Class-2 landfill. Welcome Center construction is expected to involve 50-75 onsite workers, on average, with a peak of up to 150 workers. Truck trips – mainly to haul debris and transport in building materials, concrete, and equipment – are expected to number around 1,800; averaged over the lifetime of the project, this would be approximately 2-3 truck trips per workday. A stormwater construction project permit would be secured from the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Board (including a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan), and a wastewater discharge permit from the East Bay Municipal Utility District might be needed to manage accumulated ground and rainwater.

Building 48 (the Firehouse) is a two-story, approximately 6,600-square-foot building that houses firefighter sleeping quarters on the second floor and administrative offices on the first floor (emergency vehicles are stationed in an adjacent garage building). The seismically substandard second floor walls would be reinforced to increase sheer strength; the first floor was similarly reinforced about five years prior. Building 48 was constructed in 1981 and has been found, with State Historic Preservation Officer concurrence in 2003, to be ineligible for listing on the NRHP. Renovation would take approximately 6 months and would involve approximately 5 workers on site at any one time.

Building 26 (Health Services Center) is an approximately 10,500-square-foot, two-story building with an occupancy of about 45 staff (health services and EH&S staff) that would be vacated by the project. It is rated seismically “poor” and would not be reoccupied in its current condition; instead, it would be put into “cold and dark” status by closing off its utilities, securing access, etc. Building 26 was constructed in 1964 and has been found to be ineligible for NRHP listing.

Building 54 and its parking area reside on leased Parcel 21, which is owned by the University of California Regents and leased to the DOE. The proposed action would renew the Parcel 21 lease--which is currently approved through May 31, 2020--for a 50-year term. All applicable LBNL “Standard Project Features” (SPFs) to avoid or minimize environmental impacts would be employed as an integral part of the proposed Action project description scope.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.13 – Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines
- B1.15 – Support buildings
- B1.6 – Asbestos removal
- B1.23 – Demolition and disposal of buildings
- B1.24 – Property transfers
- B1.27 – Disconnection of utilities
- B1.28 – Placing a facility in an environmentally safe condition
- B1.33 – Stormwater runoff control
- B1.34 – Lead-based paint containment, removal, and disposal
- B2.5 – Facility safety and environmental improvements
- B3.1 – Site characterization and environmental monitoring

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act 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)

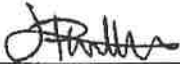
The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

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.

I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed action.

LBNL Environmental Planner:  **Date Determined:** 6-19-19
Jeff Philliber

I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed action.

BASO NEPA Program Manager:  **Date Determined:** 6/21/19
Susan Fields

BASO MIP Division Director:  **Date Determined:** 6/21/19
Mary Gross

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1 B), 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: **Date Determined:** 6/25/2019

Peter. R. Siebach



Figure 1: Proposed Action Site Locations



Figure 2: Plan View Comparison: Existing Bldg. 54 and Proposed Welcome Center



Figure 3: Welcome Center Rendering from Southwest Viewpoint