

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**  
**HANFORD PATROL 200 EAST AREA BUILDING**  
**(PROJECT S-227)**  
**HANFORD SITE, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON**

**PROPOSED ACTION**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to construct an insulated concrete form office building in 200 East Area. The proposed facility provides operational support staff office space and parking for government and private vehicles.

**LOCATION OF ACTION**

The location of the proposed action is in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site. The proposed new building will be directly east of the 2721-E Building. The parking lot will be located south of the proposed new building and south of the 2727-E Building.

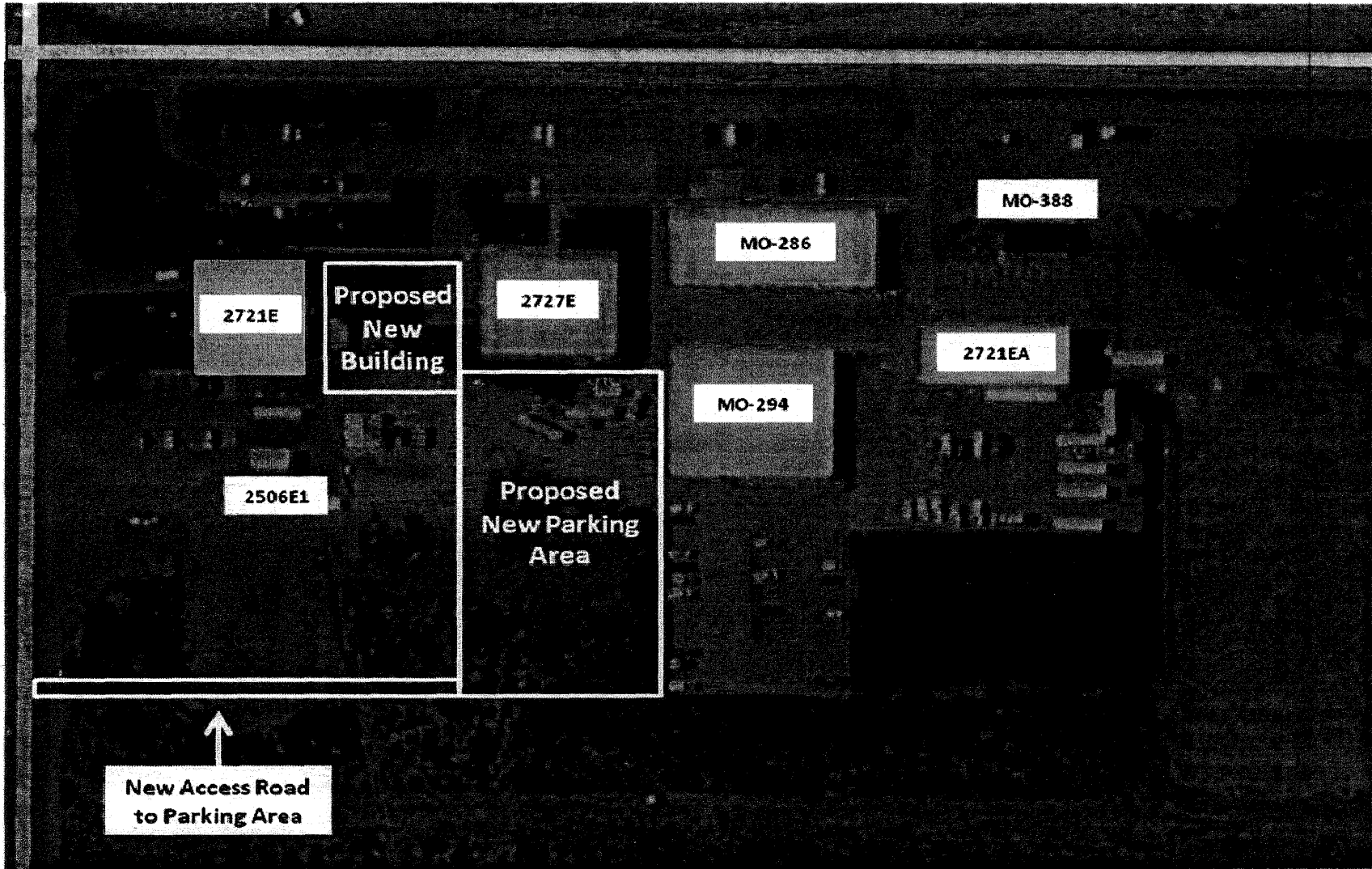
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposed action will construct a 12,000 square foot insulated concrete form building to house Mission Support Alliance bargaining unit, administrative, technical, and management staff. The facility will provide operational support and parking for government and private vehicles. The new building will be directly east of the 2721-E Building; with a minimum distance of 15 feet between buildings. The north end of the new building will be placed at the same longitude as the north end of the 2721-E Building. The footprint of the new building is estimated to be 80-feet by 150-feet. The south end of the building may form an "L" to the east to minimize the total southern extension. The parking lot is expected to be south of this new building and south of the 2727-E Building. Refer to Figure 1 for a general site layout of the new building and parking area.

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION TO BE APPLIED**

The Categorical Exclusion (CX) listed in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1021, *National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures*, Subpart D, Appendix B that will be applied to the proposed action described herein is B1.15. The authority for the regulation is 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; and 50 U.S.C. 2401 *et seq.* The source for the regulation is 57 FR 15144, April 24, 1992, unless otherwise noted. Application of categorical

Figure 1. General Site Layout of the Proposed New Building and Parking Area



exclusion B1.15 to the proposed action is discussed further in the section entitled, “Eligibility Criteria.”

*B1.15 - Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; employee health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (including security posts); fire protection; and similar support purposes, but excluding facilities for waste storage activities, except as provided in other parts of this appendix.*

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

In applying categorical exclusions under the provisions of 10 CFR 1021.410(b) to specific proposed actions, DOE must determine that:

- (1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021;
- (2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. Extraordinary circumstances are unique situations presented by specific proposals, such as scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; or unresolved conflicts concerning alternate uses of available resources within the meaning of section 102(2)(E) of NEPA; and
- (3) The proposal is not “connected” [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or §1021.211 of the regulation.

The proposed action fits within the class of actions described in 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, categorical exclusion B1.15 and involves the “*construction and operation of a support building within or contiguous to an already developed area where active utilities and currently used roads are readily available. Covered support buildings include those for office purposes; parking; education and training; storage of supplies and equipment; security...*”

There are no extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action. Also, the proposed action is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

The proposed action fits within the class of actions listed in 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, categorical exclusion B1.15, as discussed above. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements to fit within the class that must be addressed:

<b>INTEGRAL ELEMENTS 10 CFR 1021, SUBPART D, APPENDIX B</b>	
Would the Proposed Action:	Comment or Explanation:
Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders?	No. The proposed action will comply with laws, regulations, permits, health and safety, DOE, and other applicable requirements.
Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment facilities (including incinerators)? The proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment actions.	No. The proposed action will not require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities.
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?	No. The proposed action will not disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products if they existed. There will be no uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.
<p>Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources including, but not limited to:</p> <p>(i) Property (e.g., sites, buildings, structures, objects) of historic, cultural, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;</p> <p>(ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat), Federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat or state-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat;</p> <p>(iii) Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and floodplains;</p> <p>(iv) Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife</p>	<p>No. The proposed action will not adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. The proposed action will be reviewed for cultural and ecological clearance, and will not proceed unless a "No Potential to Cause Effect" determination is made or appropriate actions are taken to mitigate identified effects.</p> <p>The property upon which the proposed action will occur is not of historic, cultural, archaeological, or architectural significance and is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This will be verified and documented through the cultural resources review with a finding of "No Potential to Cause Effect."</p> <p>Federally listed threatened or endangered species and their habitats will not be affected by the proposed action; including federally proposed or candidate species, state listed endangered or threatened species, and their habitat. This will be verified and documented through the ecological resources review</p>

<p>refuges, and marine sanctuaries;</p> <p>(v) Prime agricultural lands;</p> <p>(vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region);</p> <p>(vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rainforests?</p>	<p>with a finding of “No Potential to Cause Effect.”</p> <p>There will be no impacts of the proposed action on wetlands; floodplains; federal/state designated wilderness areas, national parks; national landmarks; wild/scenic rivers; wildlife refuges; marine sanctuaries; prime agricultural lands; special water sources; tundra; coral reefs; or rainforests. This will be verified and documented through an ecological resources review with a finding of “No Potential to Cause Effect.”</p>
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## CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEW

### Cultural Resources Review

A cultural resources review was conducted by the Hanford Cultural Resources Program in March 2010. The cultural resources review was conducted in accordance with 36 CFR 800, “*Protection of Historic Properties*,” Subpart B, “*The Section 106 Process*,” Section 800.3(a)(1), “*No Potential to Cause Effects*,” of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation implementing regulations for the *National Historic Preservation Act*.

The proposed action will be conducted in an area of the Hanford Site that have been surveyed and is highly disturbed from previous construction activities. Aerial photographs confirmed the area to be highly disturbed. Also, no known cultural resources are located near the proposed action site. A field walk-down was completed for the proposed action site and no cultural resources were identified.

Based on the cultural resources review, a “*No Potential to Cause Effect*” finding was recommended and sent to the DOE Hanford Cultural Resources Program Manager. On March 22, 2010, the DOE Hanford Cultural Resources Program Manager responded and determined that in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, Subpart B, Section 800.3(a)(1), the proposed action is not the type of undertaking with potential to cause effects to cultural and historic properties and no further actions are required. The cultural resources review and clearance is documented in NPCE #2010-200-009. A copy of the cultural resources review and clearance will be maintained by the Hanford Cultural Resources Program and also be place in the proposed action project file for future reference, as needed.

An excavation permit will be obtained to support the proposed action. Workers will be directed to watch for cultural materials (e.g., bones, artifacts, etc.) during all work activities. If any cultural materials are encountered, then work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop until a qualified Hanford Cultural Resources Program specialist has been notified, assessed the significance of the find, and if necessary, arranged for mitigation of impacts to the find.

## **Ecological Resources Review**

Pedestrian and visual reconnaissance surveys of the proposed action site were performed by the Ecological Monitoring and Compliance Project on May 21, 2009; November 16, 2009; and February 4, 2010. The results of the ecological resources review are documented in ECR #2010-200-008. A copy of the ecological resources review will be maintained by the Ecological Monitoring and Compliance Project and also maintained in the proposed action project file.

The percent cover of dominant vegetation was visually estimated. Direct and indirect observations of wildlife were documented. Data from routine annual surveys conducted in the general area of the proposed action during the 2009 nesting season were included along with proposed action site surveys conducted during the non-nesting season. The following summarizes the results of the ecological resources review for the proposed action:

- The northern half of the site, from 4th Street to approximately 15 m south of building 2506E1, has been previously disturbed and is comprised primarily of gravel parking areas and lawn grass. The southern half, which encompasses proposed parking areas and an access road, supports an area of natural habitat characterized by sagebrush (20%), cheatgrass (20%), and scattered native forbs. Russian thistle is common along the margins. The sagebrush patch encompasses approximately 0.4 hectares (~ 1 acre).
- Evidence of use by coyotes and black-tailed jackrabbits was observed in the vicinity.
- During the nesting season a California quail, a brown-headed cowbird, and a house finch were observed at the south end of the site near the proposed new parking area. Also during the nesting season sage sparrows and western meadowlarks were observed south of the proposed action site in the large stand of sagebrush habitat, a portion of which extends into the proposed new parking area.

The following considerations and recommendations were provided as a result of the ecological resources review:

- The black-tailed jackrabbit is listed as a Washington State Candidate Species, which is defined as a species for which the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has determined "sufficient evidence suggests that its status may meet the listing criteria defined for State Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive." Construction activities may cause jackrabbits to alter their travel and habitat use patterns, but are not expected to result in significant impacts to the population.
- The sage sparrow is listed as a Washington State Candidate Species. All the birds noted in the surveys, except the California quail, are protected under the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* (MBTA), which makes it illegal to take, capture, or kill any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg of such bird. Workers should be instructed to watch for birds during project activities. If any nesting birds (if not a nest, a pair of birds of the same species or

a single bird that will not leave the area when disturbed) are encountered, or bird defensive behaviors (flying at workers, refusal to leave area, strident vocalizations) are observed during, an Ecological Monitoring and Compliance Project ecological resources specialists should be contacted for further consultation.

- The mature sagebrush habitat in the southern half of the proposed action site has the potential to support shrub-nesting migratory birds such as sage sparrows, western meadowlarks, and lark sparrows. In order to avoid impacts to these bird species and assure compliance with the MBTA, it is recommended that any grubbing and shrub clearing tasks be completed by March 15, 2010. The Ecological Monitoring and Compliance Project should be contacted for further consultation if grubbing and shrub clearing activities occur after March 15, 2010.
- Gravel substrates, such as that found along roadsides and in parking lots, provides potential nesting habitat for ground-nesting birds such as killdeer and horned lark. Again, if any nesting birds or birds displaying defensive behaviors are encountered, an Ecological Monitoring and Compliance Project ecological resources specialists should be contacted for further consultation.

The expected loss of mature sagebrush from the proposed action is approximately 0.4 hectare (~ 1 acre), which is less than the mitigation requirement thresholds for the area affected by the proposed action. However, based on good stewardship, project S-227 has agreed to contribute funding towards sagebrush mitigation. The amount of funding will support mitigation planting of roughly 1.6 hectares (4 acres) with a density of 400 seedlings per acre. This is based on a unit area replacement ratio of about 3:1 (replaced to disturbed) which takes into account the mortality of sagebrush seedlings. Because this mitigation activity is not a requirement, no Mitigation Action Plan is required. Instead, the funds will be combined with another project where mitigation is required and will be used to culture and outplant sagebrush seedlings.

Assuming compliance with the above considerations and recommendations, no adverse impacts to protected species, priority habitats, or other biological resources of concern are expected to result from the proposed action. This Ecological Compliance Review is valid until September 30, 2010.

### **Potential Environmental Impacts Considered**

The following checklist summarizes potential environmental impacts that were considered. Explanations for all "YES" answers are provided at the end of the checklist.

**IMPACT TO AIR**

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
1.	Result in more than minor and temporary gaseous discharges to the environment?		X
2.	Release other than nominal and temporary particulates or drops to the atmosphere?		X
3.	Result in more than minor thermal discharges?		X
4.	Increase offsite radiation dose to >0.1 mrem (40 CFR 61 Subpart H)?		X

**IMPACT TO WATER**

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
5.	Discharge any liquids to the environment?	X	
6.	Discharge heat to surface or subsurface water?		X
7.	Release soluble solids to natural waters?		X
8.	Provide Interconnection between aquifers?		X
9.	Require installation of wells?		X
10.	Require a Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Control Plan (40 CFR 112 and 761).		X
11.	Violate water quality standards (WAC 713-200, Table 1)		X



**IMPACT TO LAND**

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
12.	Conflict with existing zoning or land use?		X
13.	Involve hazardous, radioactive, PCB, or asbestos waste?		X
14.	Cause erosion?		X
15.	Require an excavation permit?	X	
16.	Disturb an undeveloped area?	X	

**GENERAL**

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
17.	Disturb Arid Lands Ecology or Wahluke Slope Reserves		X
18.	Cause other than a minor increase in noise level?		X
19.	Make a long-term commitment of large quantities of nonrenewable resources?		X
20.	Require new utilities or modifications to utilities?	X	
21.	Use pesticides, carcinogens, or toxic chemicals?		X
22.	Require a radiation work permit?		X

The following are explanations for all "YES" responses in the potential environmental impacts considered above:

**5. Discharge any liquids to the environment** – The proposed action may discharge small volumes of water or other commercially available liquids for temporary dust control. The volume of such liquids is not expected to adversely affect the environment.

**15. Require an excavation permit** – The proposed action may require an excavation permit to install the building foundation. In accordance with Hanford Site procedures and protocols, ground disturbing activities will require an excavation permit. Workers will be directed to watch

for cultural materials (e.g., bones, artifacts, etc.) during all work activities. If any cultural materials are encountered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop until a qualified Hanford Site Cultural Resources Program specialist has been notified, assessed the significance of the find, and if necessary, arranged for mitigation of impacts to the find.

**16. Disturb and undeveloped area** – The proposed action will disturb approximately 0.2 hectare (~ 0.5 acre) of mature sagebrush habitat. Although not required by mitigation thresholds, Project S-227 will provide funding towards sagebrush mitigation activities. This will result in the planting of approximately 1.6 hectares (4 acres) with a density of 400 sagebrush seedlings per acre.

**20. Require new utilities or modifications to utilities** – The proposed action will require the installation of new or modification to existing electrical, water, telephone, computer, and other utilities and services typically installed in office buildings.

## DETERMINATION

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer authorized under DOE Order 451.1A, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions described in 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, categorical exclusion B1.15; and satisfies the requirements of 10 CFR 1021.410(b). The proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.



4-19-10

R. W. Russell III, NEPA Compliance Officer  
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Date

cc:

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