

August 9, 2024

Dear Reader,

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) invites public comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed demolition of Building 2 (B-2) located on the NETL Albany campus in the City of Albany, Oregon. The EA can also be found on the DOE NETL's website at <https://netl.doe.gov/node/6939> and DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-environmental-assessments>.

DOE NETL released this EA for public review and comment in conjunction with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Albany Democrat-Herald and Corvallis Gazette-Times on August 10, 2024, and August 13, 2024, and the Salem Statesman Journal on August 11, 2024. The public comment period extends for 30-days from the first publication of the Notice of Availability.

DOE NETL has prepared this EA in accordance with NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations, and in coordination with requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The EA evaluates potential environmental, historical, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed demolition of Building 2 (B-2) located on the NETL Albany campus in the City of Albany, Oregon. Additionally, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined that B-2 is a contributing element of an eligible historic district at the NETL Albany site (eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places), triggering the need for NHPA Section 106 compliance. This EA evaluates the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed demolition of the B-2 building on the NETL-Albany campus.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would demolish a single structure, known as B-2, on the NETL Albany campus to mitigate safety and health concerns due to the overall decayed state of the structure. The building is located within the secure NETL Albany campus to prevent unauthorized access, and NETL has not utilized B-2 since the 1990's. The building is not considered to be safe for occupancy in its current state.

The Proposed Action would occur entirely within the NETL Albany campus and is limited to the B-2 structure. The demolition of the B-2 building would be conducted in accordance with applicable local ordinances, as necessary. DOE is currently working with the Oregon SHPO and the National Parks Service to evaluate historical significance of the B-2 structure as a contributing element of a historic district eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and is developing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for mitigation requirements.

The EA considers the Proposed Action, two Alternative Actions (renovation and additional decommissioning of B-2), and the No Action Alternative for the B-2 structure. The EA evaluated the resource areas DOE commonly addresses in EAs and identified no significant adverse environmental impacts from DOE's Proposed Action.

COMMENT INFORMATION

A hardcopy of the Draft EA is available upon request and will also be available for review at the Albany Public Library located at 2450 14th Avenue SE, City of Albany, OR 97322 as well as online as previously indicated.

Comments should be marked as "B2-Albany Campus" and sent to:

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Individual names and addresses, including email addresses, received as part of the comment documents typically are considered to be part of the public record. Persons wishing to withhold names, addresses, or other identifying information from the public record must state this request prominently at the beginning of their comments. DOE will honor this request to the extent allowable by law. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses will be included in the public record and open to public inspection in their entirety.

The public comment period ends on September 8, 2024. DOE will consider late submissions to the extent practicable.

Sincerely,



Johnna Sholtis, Ph.D.