



## FERMI SITE OFFICE

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Science

P.O. Box 2000  
Batavia, Illinois 60510

June 11, 2025

Mr. Bill Mairson  
Chief Safety Officer  
Fermilab  
P.O. Box 500  
Batavia, Illinois 60510

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT DETERMINATION  
AT FERMI NATIONAL ACCELERATOR LABORATORY  
RAILHEAD CLEARANCE PLAN

Reference: Email from B. Mairson to R. Alber; Subject: National Environmental  
Policy Act Environmental Evaluation Notification Form for the Railhead  
Clearance Plan; Dated: June 2, 2025

Dear Mr. Mairson,

The Fermi Site Office (FSO), in conjunction with appointed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance Officer from the Brookhaven Site Office (BHSO), has reviewed the NEPA Environmental Evaluation Notification Form (EENF) for the Railhead Clearance Plan. Based on the information provided in the EENF, the following categorical exclusion (CX) is approved.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>CX</u>
Railhead Clearance Plan	6/10/2025	B1.3, B1.28, B1.30

Enclosed is a signed copy of the EENF for your records. No further NEPA review is required. This project falls under categorical exclusions provided in 40 *CFR* 1021, as amended in November 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact Russ Alber, of my staff, at 630-840-2501 or by email at [russ.aber@science.doe.gov](mailto:russ.aber@science.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

Whitney Begner-  
Romozzi

Digitally signed by  
Whitney Begner-Romozzi  
Date: 2025.06.11  
14:53:57 -05'00'

Whitney S. Begner-Romozzi  
Acting Manager, Fermi Site Office

Enclosures: As Stated

cc:

J. Sawyer, FFDG

R. Bushek, FFDG

S. Panock, FFDG

R. Alber, DOE-FSO

J. Scott, DOE-FSO

**FERMILAB ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION NOTIFICATION FORM  
(EENF)** for documenting compliance with the National Environmental Policy  
Act (NEPA), Department of Energy (DOE) NEPA Implementing Regulations,  
and the DOE NEPA Compliance Program of DOE Policy 451.1

**Project/Activity Title:** Railhead Clearance Plan

**ES&H Tracking Number:** 2025-31001

I hereby verify, via my signature, the accuracy of information in the area of my contribution for this document and that every effort would be made throughout this action to comply with the commitments made in this document and to pursue cost-effective pollution prevention opportunities. Pollution prevention (source reduction and other practices that eliminate or reduce the creation of pollutants) is recognized as a good business practice which would enhance site operations thereby enabling Fermilab to accomplish its mission, achieve environmental compliance, reduce risks to health and the environment, and prevent or minimize future Department of Energy (DOE) legacy wastes.

**Fermilab Action Owner:** Thomas Distelhurst  
**Signature and Date**

**Thomas Distelhurst,**  
**UID:tdistel**

Digitally signed by Thomas  
Distelhurst, UID:tdistel  
Date: 2025.05.28 07:11:05 -05'00'

## **I. Description of the Proposed Action and Need**

### **Purpose and Need:**

The purpose of this plan is to implement a structured, phased approach to the safe and efficient disposal of scrap materials and waste stored at the Railhead at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, IL. There is a need to remove waste from the site to avoid potential safety and environmental hazards.

### **Proposed Action:**

The scope of work for this plan may include the following:

- Utilizing handheld devices or the in-situ gamma spectroscopy software (ISOCs) to perform radiological surveys on all items prior to disposal. Surveying will be coordinated with the Radiation Safety Department, and Fermilab survey procedures and release criteria will be followed.
- Documenting all cleared materials for accountability and ensuring disposal records are maintained. This includes maintaining records of all released trailers and materials, including dates, surveys, and weights.
- Inventorying machinery and equipment requiring verification of fluid sampling and/or drainage.
- Accidental release of any fluids or contaminants will be reported to the environmental team, and proper clean up and reporting requirements will be followed.
- Once rendered compliant, transportation for disposal or recycling will be scheduled, as appropriate. Any waste leaving site that requires a special, hazardous, or radioactive waste manifest must be signed by a member of the Fermilab Hazard Control Technology Team (HCTT).
- Ensuring all environmental, health, and safety protocols are followed throughout the process.
- Communicating regularly with stakeholders, including environmental compliance teams, waste management vendors, and logistics personnel, to ensure that timelines and objectives are met efficiently.

### **Alternatives Considered:**

The Do Nothing alternative would not remove and dispose waste at the Railhead, which may potentially pose a safety hazard or threat of potential accidental contamination to the environment.

## II. Description of the Affected Environment

This activity will be performed at the Railhead. Potential environmental impacts are described in Section. IV.

## III. Potential Environmental Effects (If the answer to the questions below is “yes”, provide comments for each checked item and where clarification is necessary.)

A. Sensitive Resources: Would the proposed action result in changes and/or disturbances to any of the following resources?

- ☐ Threatened or endangered species
- ☐ Other protected species
- ☐ Wetland/Floodplains
- ☐ Archaeological or historical resources
- ☐ Non-attainment areas

B. Regulated Substances/Activities: Would the proposed action involve any of the following regulated substances or activities?

- ☐ Clearing or Excavation
- ☒ Demolition or decommissioning
- ☒ Asbestos removal
- ☒ PCBs
- ☐ Chemical use or storage
- ☐ Pesticides
- ☒ Air emissions
- ☐ Liquid effluents
- ☐ Underground storage tanks
- ☒ Hazardous or other regulated waste (including radioactive or mixed)
- ☒ Radioactive exposures or radioactive emissions
- ☐ Radioactivation of soil or groundwater

C. Other Relevant Disclosures: Would the proposed action involve any of the following actions/disclosures?

- ☐ Threatened violation of ES&H permit requirements
- ☐ Siting/construction/major modification of waste recovery or TSD facilities
- ☐ Disturbance of pre-existing contamination
- ☐ New or modified permits
- ☐ Public controversy
- ☐ Action/involvement of another federal agency
- ☐ Public utilities/services
- ☐ Depletion of a non-renewable resource

## IV. Comments on checked items in section III.

### Demolition or decommissioning

Equipment, units, transformers, tools, and scrap metal stored at the Railhead have been decommissioned and no longer operable. Equipment suspected to contain oil, PCBs, or other containments will be sampled.

### **Asbestos removal**

Piping and other equipment may contain asbestos. Proper sampling, handling, and disposal protocols will be followed. Fermilab Industrial Hygiene Department, Environmental Program Department (EPD), and HCTT may offer consultation.

### **PCBs**

Transformers and other equipment suspected to contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) will be sampled to ensure no PCBs are present. Proper protocol and handling will ensure no cross contamination between samples or equipment and will avoid prohibited mixture.

### **Air emissions**

Equipment such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) units may contain or previously contained refrigerants. Refrigerant recovery and/or disposal will follow Fermilab procedures. Accidental release must be reported to the Fermilab EPD.

### **Hazardous or other regulated waste (including radioactive or mixed)**

Any oil or oil residue will be disposed in 55-gallon drums provided by the Fermilab HCTT. Equipment, units, transformers, tools, and scrap metal will be surveyed prior to transportation and disposal to an external waste facility. Soil samples may be collected to investigate potential contamination, such as lead.

### **Radioactive exposures or radioactive emissions**

The railhead stores radioactive material. Workers and subcontractors will adhere to guidance from Fermilab Radiological Safety Officers when working in the railhead area.

## **V. NEPA Recommendation**

Fermilab staff has evaluated the proposed action and believe that several Categorical Exclusions apply. It is believed that the proposed action meets the description found in DOE's NEPA Implementation Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, as follows:

B1.3 Routine maintenance. Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures (including, but not limited to, pathways, roads, and railroads), vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operations may be suspended and resumed, provided that the activities would be conducted in a manner in accordance with applicable requirements.

B1.28 Placing a facility in an environmentally safe condition. Minor activities that are required to place a facility in an environmentally safe condition where there is no proposed use for the facility. These activities would include, but are not limited to, reducing surface contamination, and removing materials, equipment or waste (such as final defueling of a reactor, where there are adequate existing facilities for the treatment, storage, or disposal of the materials, equipment or waste). These activities would not include conditioning, treatment, or processing of spent nuclear fuel, high-level waste, or special nuclear materials.

B1.30 Transfer actions. Transfer actions, in which the predominant activity is transportation, provided that (1) the receipt and storage capacity and management capability for the amount and type of materials, equipment, or waste to be moved already exists at the receiving site and (2) all necessary facilities and operations at the receiving site are already permitted, licensed, or approved, as appropriate. Such transfers are not regularly scheduled as part of ongoing routine operations.

**Fermilab NEPA Program Manager:** Samantha Panock  
**Signature and Date**

**Samantha Panock**

Digitally signed by Samantha  
Panock  
Date: 2025.05.27 16:15:35 -05'00'

## VII. DOE/Fermi Site Office (FSO) NEPA Review

Based upon my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**FSO NEPA Compliance Officer:**

**Signature and Date**

KATHLEEN  
GREEN

Digitally signed by KATHLEEN  
GREEN  
Date: 2025.06.10 07:28:56 -04'00'

## VIII. Diagrams

