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: Fermilab Ecological Land Management (ELM) Plan
ES&H Tracking Number: ELM25-01

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: Wally Levernier

Signature and Date: Walter Levernier Digitally signed by Walter Levernier Date: 2025.07.17 07:05:51 -05'00'

I. Description of the Proposed Action and Need

Purpose and Need:
The purpose of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) Ecological Land management (ELM) Plan is to enhance the environment and community of the Fermilab campus. The 6,800-acre Fermilab campus provides adequate land and facilities to accommodate the science mission. Most of this land is relatively undeveloped, and Fermilab's effective land management is based on ecological science and stewardship values. Per the Fermi Forward Discovery Group contract, the safety and health of workers and the public and the protection and restoration of the environment are fundamental responsibilities of the Contractor (4 (c) paragraph 1).

Proposed Action:
The ELM Plan consists of a number of goals, approved by the ELM Committee. Each goal gives rise to one or more specific objectives. Each objective specifies a definite result that can be achieved within a reasonable time frame and with available resources. These goals and objectives work to create an ecosystem that is healthy and stable for flora and fauna populations. Additionally, the ELM Plan seeks to encourage land use practices and construction to become more cost effective while accounting for ecological impacts, thereby preserving biodiversity and ecological integrity. Ecological education is also a key component of the ELM Plan, with the target of educating Fermilab users and the surrounding communities with the help of the Education Department and Fermilab Natural Areas. Finally, the ELM Plan describes Fermilab ecology and identifies relevant ecological concepts used to formulate the plan. It is supplemented by several maps and reference documents.

Conservation and restoration activities listed in the ELM Plan include, but are not limited to:

- Burning
- Pesticide and herbicide application
- Planting
- Tree trimming and removal, brush removal
- Invasive species removal and control
- Habitat and wildlife monitoring
- Wildlife population control
- Research and outreach related to environmental conservation

Alternatives Considered:
The Do Nothing alternative would not fulfill Fermilab's contractual obligations and would not support ecosystem health and stable flora and fauna populations at the Fermilab campus. The Do Nothing alternative could also cause increased risk to Fermilab employees and visitors with increased pest populations and invasive species.

II. Description of the Affected Environment

The program is implemented site wide. 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.

Threatened or endangered species
Best management practices and applied ecological knowledge are used to enhance and protect ecosystems that support threatened and endangered species. Certain land management practices, such as burning, may require collaboration with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and its Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool. The tool may be used to evaluate impact to threatened, endangered and/o protected species. Threatened and endangered species onsite are continuously monitored by the ELM Committee and Fermilab Ecology staff.

Other protected species
Best management practices and applied ecological knowledge are used to enhance and protect ecosystems that support protected species. Wildlife population control activities are tracked and reported to IDNR. Protected species onsite are continuously monitored by the ELM Committee and Fermilab Ecology staff.

Wetland/Floodplains
Best management practices and applied ecological knowledge are used to enhance and protect wetland and floodplain areas, such as, but not limited to, planting native wetland plant species and implementing erosion control practices.

Archaeological or historical resources
Prairie habitat and several areas onsite have potential to be historically significant. Best management practices and applied ecological knowledge will be used to preserve historically significant natural areas. If there are archaeological findings, such as tools found during excavation work, the findings will be reported to the Environmental Program Department (EPD) and handled appropriately. EPD may collaborate and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Clearing or Excavation
Clearing and excavation may be required for planting, tree removal, and/or enhancements to habitats to support healthy ecosystems.

Pesticides
Pesticides and herbicides are used to removed invasive or unhealthy plants and pests in order to create an ecosystem that is healthy and stable for native flora and fauna populations.

Air emissions
Land management practices, such as burning, produce smoke. Burning activities are approved via a burn permit issued annually by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Timely notifications are sent out to Fermilab staff and surrounding public entities when burns are scheduled. Weather factors, such as wind, are considered to minimize impact to air quality.

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.

B1.20 Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat
Small-scale activities undertaken to protect cultural resources (such as fencing, labeling, and flagging) or to protect, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat, fish passage facilities (such as fish ladders and minor diversion channels), or fisheries. Such activities would be conducted in accordance with an existing natural or cultural resource plan, if any.

B1.3 Routine maintenance
Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, rightsof-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.

B1.33 Stormwater runoff control
Design, construction, and operation of control practices to reduce stormwater runoff and maintain natural hydrology. Activities include, but are not limited to, those that reduce impervious surfaces (such as vegetative practices and use of porous pavements), best management practices (such as silt fences, straw wattles, and fiber rolls), and use of green infrastructure or other low impact development practices (such as cisterns and green roofs).

B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources
Field and laboratory research, inventory, and information collection activities that are directly related to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources or to the protection of cultural resources, provided that such activities would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on fish and wildlife habitat or populations or to cultural resources.

B3.8 Outdoor terrestrial ecological and environmental research
Outdoor terrestrial ecological and environmental research in a small area (generally less than 5 acres), including, but not limited to, siting, construction, and operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for associated analysis.

B3.16 Research activities in aquatic environments
Small-scale, temporary surveying, site characterization, and research activities in aquatic environments.

Fermilab NEPA Program Manager: Samantha Panock

Signature and Date: Samantha Panock Digitally signed by Samantha Panock Date: 2025.07.14 15:24:57 -05'00'

VI. 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.

DOE / NEPA Compliance Officer: Kathleen Green

Signature and Date: KATHLEEN GREEN Digitally signed by KATHLEEN GREEN Date: 2025.07.22 09:26:46 -04'00'

VII. Diagrams
N/A