

NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) Categorically Excluded Actions	Document ID #: DOE/CX-00248
I. Project Title: Phase One, Part Two Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring to Support Design, Construction, and Operation of a Proposed Cereza Energy Center at the U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site	
II. Describe the proposed action, including location, time period over which proposed action will occur, project dimension (e.g., acres displaced/disturbed, excavation length/depth), and area/location/number of buildings. Attach narratives, maps and drawings of proposed action. Describe existing environmental conditions and potential for environmental impacts from the proposed action. If the proposed action is not a project, describe the action or plan.	
BACKGROUND	
<p>The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Hanford Field Office (HFO) and Cereza Energy Center LLC propose to construct a photovoltaic solar and battery energy storage system (BESS) facility (Cereza Energy Center or Facility) on the Hanford Site using a phased approach involving site characterization and environmental monitoring followed by design, construction, and operation of the Facility. On February 19, 2026, Hecate Energy Cereza LLC (Hecate) transferred the Facility to Cereza Energy Center LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Savion LLC.</p>	
<p>The Cereza Energy Center is proposed for interconnection to the electrical grid at the existing Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) 500-kilovolt (kV) Ashe Substation, located north of the Energy Northwest Columbia Generating Station, but would be based on the results of BPA interconnection studies. The Cereza Energy Center would be constructed and operated on up to 8,000 acres of the DOE-HFO managed Hanford Site in an area designated for industrial use by the "Final Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement" (HCLUP-EIS, DOE/EIS-0222-F, September 1999) and Record of Decision (ROD, 64 FR 61615) (see Figures 1, 2, and 3).</p>	
<p>The Cereza Energy Center would have the capability of up to 2,000 megawatts (MW) of solar power generation and 2,000 MW of energy storage with up to a four hour duration. The Facility would include low-impact design and construction principles and would be designed as a single-axis, terrain following, tracker system that follows the sun on a daily east-west basis. Installed equipment would include, but may not be limited to, mono or bifacial photovoltaic modules, steel posts, racking, tracker motors, wiring, conduit and other structures, direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) inverters, transformers, buried cables, control housing and cabinets, battery systems, security fencing, internal gravel roads, permanent stormwater best management practices (BMPs), and concrete equipment pads. All equipment would be remotely operated with no continuously occupied structures planned.</p>	
<p>The Cereza Energy Center is proposed for interconnection to the BPA Ashe Substation through a new onsite electrical substation including breakers, step-up transformers with spill retention pits, communication equipment, grounding grid, and a gravel surface. The substation and BESS would be fenced to meet National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Safety Rules for Electrical Supply Stations. A 500-kV generation tie-line (gen-tie), or a double circuit line, approximately 2 miles in length and associated hardware (i.e., poles, conductors, insulators, wires, cables, anchors, and foundations) would connect the Cereza Energy Center to a point of demarcation outside the Ashe Substation.</p>	
<p>Multiple BPA studies would be required to support interconnection of the proposed Cereza Energy Center at Ashe Substation. As necessary, information about the project would need to be provided to BPA, such as demonstration of site control. Modification of the Ashe Substation (adding connection points), a BPA project, would be necessary to allow interconnection of the proposed Facility. Furthermore, BPA is scoping additional projects (substations, transmission lines) outside of the Hanford Site that would allow the electric grid to safely and reliably accommodate the proposed full output of the Facility. Further coordination with BPA would be necessary during scoping and design of the project (i.e. Phase Two, defined below).</p>	
<p>National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coverage for the proposed interconnection of the Cereza Energy Center gen-tie to the BPA Ashe Substation would require a separate BPA NEPA review, which would be completed in conjunction with Phase Two, defined below and under the Proposed Action. Based on the results from BPA's Phase 1 Cluster Study (25TCS CA-TU1 P1-0, January 2026), BPA has identified the necessary Ashe Substation modifications to accommodate additional output from the Cereza Energy Center (to be refined in the Phase 2 study). Additionally, BPA established requirements for the Cereza Energy Center including a collector substation (500 kV/34.5 kV) located at the Facility and up to two 500 kV transmission lines connecting the collector</p>	

<p>NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) Categorically Excluded Actions (Continued)</p>	<p>Document ID #: DOE/CX-00248</p>
<p>substation to the Ashe Substation. Figure 4 provides a conceptual diagram of components comprising a typical utility-scale solar facility. The actual design and layout of the Cereza Energy Center may vary.</p> <p>The Cereza Energy Center project would consist of several phases and parts, as follows.</p> <p>Phase One, "Site Investigation," includes two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phase One (part one) was completed under the previously approved August 07, 2025, DOE-HFO NEPA Review Screening Form (NRSF) determination DOE/CX-00247. 2. Phase One (part two), which is the subject of this DOE-HFO NRSF, would be conducted in accordance with NEPA and other applicable statutory requirements including, but not limited to, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Clean Air Act (CAA), and other applicable regulations. Phase One (part two) would involve intrusive site characterization and environmental monitoring activities to evaluate and determine potential effects to natural, cultural, and ecological resources; geotechnical soil properties; soil electrical resistivity; site topography; and other applicable information that would inform the subsequent NEPA review for the design, construction, and operation of the Cereza Energy Center. <p>Phase Two, "Facility Commissioning," would involve the design, construction, and operation of the Cereza Energy Center. Phase Two would require separate NEPA determination, review, and approval by DOE.</p> <p>On September 25, 2024, prior to the transfer of project ownership from Hecate to Savion, the DOE-HFO and Hecate executed a Phased Easement Agreement for the Facility, which remains in effect. This NRSF and the Proposed Action described herein would be subject to all applicable terms, conditions, and other stipulations contained in, or cited by, the Phased Easement Agreement. Reference to Cereza Energy Center in this NRSF is intended to include all contractors, subcontractors, consultants, and other entities working on behalf of, and under the direct or indirect supervision of, Cereza Energy Center LLC to accomplish the work described herein.</p> <p>PROPOSED ACTION</p> <p>Site characterization and environmental monitoring activities described herein would be performed by Cereza Energy Center LLC in a proposed 10,380 acre project area available for industrial uses in the southern portion of the Hanford Site (see Figure 3). Within the 10,380 acre project area, Cereza Energy Center LLC would identify up to 8,000 acres as the proposed Facility easement for final DOE-HFO approval.</p> <p>A separate NEPA determination, review, and approval would be completed for the Phase Two design, construction, and operation of the Cereza Energy Center and potential interconnection with the BPA Ashe Substation. The NEPA review for Phase Two would be informed by the results of the site characterization and environmental monitoring activities conducted under this NRSF.</p> <p>PHASED EASEMENT AGREEMENT</p> <p>Based on the executed Phased Easement Agreement between DOE-HFO and Hecate (now Savion), the easement for the Cereza Energy Center would be developed in two phases consistent with those previously discussed. DOE-HFO granted an easement for access to DOE-controlled real property for due diligence purposes (i.e., to conduct certain site characterization and environmental monitoring activities to determine the feasibility of designing, constructing, and operating potential buildings, structures, infrastructures, equipment, and other components associated with the Cereza Energy Center). Required regulatory processes would also be performed concurrently during Phase One as discussed in more detail below.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would pursue applicable studies, permits, approvals, and agreements required to secure financing, complete design work, complete construction, and operate the Cereza Energy Center. In addition, Cereza Energy Center LLC would complete necessary support for DOE-HFO to meet regulatory compliance requirements including review under NEPA, Section 106 consultation under the NHPA, Section 7 consultation under the ESA, and other applicable environmental regulations. Collectively, these regulations represent the project requirements. To the extent</p>	

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<p>directed by DOE-HFO, Cereza Energy Center LLC would also adhere to decisions made in the HCLUP-EIS and associated ROD, which establish a map, designations, policies, and procedures for land use at the Hanford Site. Together, these four attributes comprise the comprehensive land use plan (CLUP) for the Hanford Site, which is implemented through Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and Area Management Plans (AMPs), as amended. Cereza Energy Center LLC would bear the cost of complying with project requirements including implementation of any DOE-HFO required compensatory mitigation for project impacts under NEPA, Section 106 of the NHPA, Section 7 of the ESA, or other applicable environmental regulations. This would include compliance with Hanford Site RMPs but not include remediation of any existing recognized environmental conditions that may be identified during the previous (DOE/CX-00247) or current site characterization and environmental monitoring activities described herein.</p> <p>DOE-HFO would ensure that activities conducted by Cereza Energy Center LLC are performed in accordance with the Phased Easement Agreement and other applicable requirements. DOE-HFO would also work with Cereza Energy Center LLC to develop and ensure the accuracy, scope, and content of the regulatory analyses and other environmental reviews performed under this NRSF.</p> <p>SITE CHARACTERIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING</p> <p>Under this NRSF, Cereza Energy Center LLC would conduct site characterization and environmental monitoring activities including resource specific field surveys to document conditions within the project area. Cultural and ecological resource surveys would be completed before initiating any ground disturbing activities with the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. See DOE's NEPA Regulations (10 CFR 1021) and related NEPA Implementing Procedures, as amended, Appendix B, Paragraph B, "Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Categories of Actions in Appendix B."</p> <p>These resource specific surveys are designed to ensure resource protection in accordance with Hanford Site cultural and ecological resources management plans, as discussed below. Site characterization and environmental monitoring activities would include, but may not be limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and Historic Resource Surveys; • Ecological Resource Surveys: Special-Status Species and Habitat; • Aquatic Resource Surveys; • Hydrogeologic and Hydraulic Site Investigation; • Geotechnical Investigations; • Land Surveying; • Visual Impact Analysis. <p>Following completion of resource specific surveys, Cereza Energy Center LLC would prepare reports to inform this Proposed Action for site characterization and environmental monitoring, as well as the NEPA review process for the subsequent design, construction, and operation of the Cereza Energy Center. The site characterization and environmental monitoring activities are detailed separately in the "Site Characterization Work Plan for the Cereza Solar Project at the Hanford Site" prepared by Hecate (now Savion) and dated January 2026. The following summarizes each of the site characterization and environmental monitoring activities as described in the work plan:</p> <p>Cultural and Historic Resource Surveys</p> <p>DOE-HFO is responsible for managing the Hanford Site Cultural and Historic Resources Program (CHRP) and maintaining the "Hanford Site Cultural and Historic Resources Management Plan" (CHRMP, DOE/RL-98-10, Rev. 0), as amended. All consultations and completion of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) process must take place prior to any cultural resource surveys or ground disturbing activities with the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. Prior to performing ground disturbing activities related to cultural resource surveys, Cereza Energy Center LLC would contact DOE-HFO to determine the potential for encountering subsurface contamination and the possible need for work controls related to excavation and disposal of contaminated media.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC proposes to conduct an archaeological pedestrian survey (i.e., walking across a landscape using transects) over approximately 10,380 acres that would be proposed as the Area of Potential Effects (APE) to identify the presence of archaeological or historic built</p>	

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<p>environment cultural resources. Cereza Energy Center LLC would coordinate with DOE-HFO and Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) staff regarding Tribal consultation, communication, and notification of all archaeological pedestrian surveys.</p> <p>Archaeological research and fieldwork would be conducted utilizing a reasonable-and-good-faith approach, as per 36 CFR 800.4(b)(2), to identify historic properties. Fieldwork would be primarily conducted using archaeological pedestrian transects, spaced 50 feet apart, although subsurface testing may be utilized if needed. Documentation of cultural resources would be performed to meet the DAHP Washington State Standards for Cultural Resources Reporting. All work would be overseen by an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of Interior Professional Qualifications for Archaeology.</p> <p>The archaeological pedestrian survey would be performed consistent with the Hanford Site CHRMP and include an assessment of known built environment resources in the proposed APE, as well as a visual assessment of resources within one mile of the proposed APE. The built environment assessments would be conducted by a qualified professional architectural historian and evaluated against DOE-HFO's "Hanford Site Programmatic Agreement for the Built Environment" (DOE/RL-96-77) and "Hanford Site Manhattan Project and Cold War Era Historic District Treatment Plan" (DOE/RL-97-56). The Programmatic Agreement and Treatment Plan document all Manhattan Project and Cold War Era built environment resources on the Hanford Site and contain previously defined mitigation for potential built environment impacts. Adjacent properties would not be physically evaluated but assessed from the outside edge of the proposed APE through visual observation only.</p> <p>The archaeological pedestrian survey would be conducted by qualified Cereza Energy Center LLC staff over an estimated 11 sessions, consisting of four 10-hour field days. Cereza Energy Center LLC would drive paved and gravel roads within the Hanford Site. Any off-road activities within the proposed APE would be conducted on foot. Area Native American Tribes would be invited to participate in the archaeological pedestrian surveys.</p> <p>The locations of features and boundaries would be surveyed with a Global Positioning System (GPS) capable of submeter accuracy. Any archaeological sites and isolates would be identified and documented on archaeological site forms and photographs would be taken. No collection of artifacts would occur during the archaeological pedestrian survey.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would deliver to the DOE-HFO all preliminary and final reports regarding research or field investigations including archaeological site and survey information, completed site records for any new archaeological sites that are identified, and any amendments to previously recorded archaeological sites for incorporation within the DOE-HFO CHRMP database and related files.</p> <p>Ecological Resource Surveys: Special-Status Species and Habitat</p> <p>The "Hanford Site Biological Resources Management Plan" (BRMP, DOE/RL-96-32, Rev. 2), as amended, establishes DOE's management objectives, strategies, actions, and general directives for managing biological resources on the Hanford Site.</p> <p>The Cereza Energy Center project area is predominantly a high-quality shrub-steppe habitat likely containing protected sagebrush obligate wildlife species. The north-south running powerline along the eastern edge of the Cereza Energy Center project area is known to contain the nests of ferruginous hawk. The ferruginous hawk is a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) classified endangered species in Washington State. A one-kilometer radius nest protection buffer would be applicable where activities would be restricted during the bird nesting season (March through July) to avoid impacts to ferruginous hawk and their young unless access is authorized by DOE-HFO.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would perform an assessment of special-status species and their habitats; raptor nests; and habitat types and values consistent with the Hanford Site BRMP. Prior to the field survey, Cereza Energy Center LLC biologists would review previous studies and other publicly available data sources to characterize habitats and identify potentially suitable habitat for special-status species, including species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 United States Code Sections 1531 through 1544) and the Washington Endangered Species Act (Washington Administrative Code 232-12-011), federal candidate species, federal species of concern, species protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, state sensitive species, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife priority habitats and species,</p>	

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<p>Washington Department of Natural Resources rare plants and rare/high-quality ecological communities, and species of greatest conservation need in Washington State. The field survey would focus on potentially sensitive plant and animal species and their habitats identified through desktop level analyses. The presence of noxious weeds would be documented, if encountered.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would drive paved and gravel roads within the Hanford Site. Any off-road activities within the project area would be performed on foot. The field survey would be conducted from March through July of 2026 and would take an estimated ten field days (10-hour days) with a team of four Cereza Energy Center LLC biologists. Biologists would walk meandering transects spaced a minimum of 660 feet apart within the project area. Observations of habitat and wildlife would be documented including collecting data location points using GPS. Biologists would record evidence of wildlife use, such as nests, scat, and tracks. Photographs would be taken of representative habitats and sites where more detailed surveys may be recommended. No ground disturbing activities would take place.</p> <p>The field survey would include broadcast calling surveys (i.e., a method used in bird surveys to elicit vocalizations from birds by broadcasting prerecorded calls) for burrowing owls. These field surveys would occur along predetermined routes with call stations spaced less than 0.5 mile apart. Additional calling locations would be added based on potential for suitable habitat. Raptor nests (e.g., ferruginous hawk) would be documented within the project area and within a 0.5 mile buffer from the outside edge of the project area through visual observation only. Surveys would focus on previously documented raptor nests. Adjacent properties would not be physically accessed.</p> <p>There is potential for birds to nest within the project area on the ground, on buildings, on structures and infrastructures, or on equipment. The nesting season at the Hanford Site is typically from March through July. The active nests of migratory birds (containing eggs or young) are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. Cereza Energy Center LLC personnel working on this project would be instructed to watch for nesting birds. 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 suspected, or bird defensive behaviors (flying at workers, refusal to leave the area, strident vocalizations) are observed within the project area, then Cereza Energy Center LLC project management would contact DOE-HFO to evaluate the situation. A nesting bird survey is required if the project is to perform activities during the nesting season. Cereza Energy Center LLC project management would contact DOE-HFO to schedule a nesting bird survey of the project area at least one week prior to work initiation during the nesting season. If Cereza Energy Center LLC personnel encounter potentially sensitive ecological resources during the site reconnaissance, then all activity would be halted in the affected area and DOE-HFO would be notified to ensure compliance with applicable BRMP guidelines and regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Aquatic Resources Surveys</p> <p>The project area for the Cereza Energy Center is not known to contain any wetlands, floodplains, or other waters of the United States so aquatic resources surveys in the project area may not be necessary. However, if the purpose is to also identify aquatic resources outside but in close proximity to the project area, then such resources may include the Yakima River, the Columbia River, and cooling water and other engineered ponds associated with the Energy Northwest Columbia Generating Station.</p> <p>The Columbia River is along the Pacific Flyway, which is a major route for waterfowl along the western coast of North America. The Columbia River plays a crucial role in supporting this migration providing essential habitats for migrating birds. The Columbia River wetlands and floodplains, in particular, are vital for the Pacific Flyway offering food, shelter, and resting spots for migratory birds. The potential for beneficial and adverse impacts of the Cereza Energy Center on migratory birds would likely be analyzed in subsequent NEPA review supporting the design, construction, and operation of the Facility.</p> <p>Hydrologic and Hydraulic Site Investigations</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would perform onsite visual hydraulic and hydraulic (H&H) investigations within the project area under subcontract following completion of cultural and ecological resource surveys and associated consultations to avoid disturbing sensitive areas. Primary H&H investigation activities would include, but may not be limited to, investigation preparation, field measurements of stormwater conveyance features (culverts, ditches, bridges, etc.), and</p>	

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<p>photos of observed stormwater conveyance features as follows:</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would prepare a comprehensive investigation location plan for the site including a plan for areas of interest with proposed access routes to each location. Cereza Energy Center LLC would use a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit during the field investigation to travel along the agreed upon paths, and would use the GPS "bread-crumbs" feature to track the same path throughout the investigation. Each location may be accessed using a four-wheel drive vehicle. Clearing and trimming of vegetation would not be required.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would perform a pre-investigation survey and take photographs of the planned investigation areas prior to the start of work. These photos would serve as a baseline of pre-evaluation conditions. There would be no planned ground disturbance during this work. Cereza Energy Center LLC would conduct the investigations within one uninterrupted mobilization, between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (local time) with up to seven days per week of work (including weekends), as needed. Cereza Energy Center LLC would contact DOE-HFO to confirm photos taken onsite can be used in the final reports.</p> <p>Geotechnical Investigations</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would perform geotechnical investigations within the project area under subcontract following completion of cultural and ecological resource surveys and associated consultations to avoid disturbing sensitive areas. Prior to performing geotechnical investigations, Cereza Energy Center LLC would contact DOE-HFO to ensure that any resultant ground vibrations would not adversely affect the sensitive experiments being conducted at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) Facility, located directly west of the Cereza Energy Center project area along Hanford Route 10. Cereza Energy Center LLC would also contact DOE-HFO to determine the potential for encountering subsurface contamination and the possible need for work controls related to excavation and disposal of contaminated media. Primary geotechnical investigation activities would include, but may not be limited to, investigation preparation, geotechnical soil borings, test pit excavations, pile load testing, pre-drilling, and field electrical resistivity testing as follows:</p> <p>Investigation Preparation - Cereza Energy Center LLC would prepare a comprehensive investigation location plan for the site including proposed sampling and testing locations and a plan for proposed access routes to each location. Cereza Energy Center LLC would use a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit during the field investigation to travel along the agreed upon paths and would use the GPS "bread-crumbs" feature to track the same path throughout the investigation. Each testing location may be accessed using a four-wheel drive vehicle. Clearing and trimming of vegetation would not be required.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would perform a pre-investigation survey and take photographs of the planned investigation areas prior to the start of work. These photos would serve as a baseline of pre-evaluation conditions.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would utilize the "Hanford Site Evaluation Request System" prior to performing any ground disturbing activities in the project area to identify any surface or subsurface obstructions, contamination, constraints, or other restrictions [e.g., waste sites, cultural resources, ecological resources, and utilities (water, sewer, electrical, telecommunications, etc.)]. Cereza Energy Center LLC would conduct the investigations within one uninterrupted mobilization, between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (local time) with up to seven days per week of work (including weekends), as needed.</p> <p>Geotechnical Soil Borings - Cereza Energy Center LLC would conduct soil borings in accordance with ASTM D1586, "Standard Test Method for Standard Penetration Test (SPT) and Split Barrel Sampling of Soils." Each soil boring would be advanced using SPT sampling. Samples would be continuously collected within the upper ten feet of each soil boring, then in five feet intervals thereafter until the planned termination depth. Upon completion, boreholes would be backfilled with soil cuttings.</p> <p>Soil borings would be completed to the planned termination depths or to the top of competent rock, whichever comes first, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Array borings: 20 feet below grade; 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substation borings: 50 feet below grade; • Battery energy storage system borings: 50 feet below grade; • Gen-tie borings (i.e., electrical transmission powerline poles): 50 feet below grade. <p>If groundwater is encountered, Cereza Energy Center LLC would make short-term observations during soil boring operations and prior to closure of each borehole. Each soil boring would be backfilled with cuttings and leveled at grade upon completion. DOE-HFO would provide Cereza Energy Center LLC with any regulatory review and approvals required to ensure compliance with the Phased Easement Agreement provisions regarding groundwater.</p> <p>All SPT samples would be placed in marked jars or double Ziploc bags to preserve moisture content and integrity during shipment to an offsite laboratory for testing. Each container would be noted with boring number, sample number, and sample depth. All investigations would be overseen and logged by Cereza Energy Center LLC under the direction of a Professional Engineer.</p> <p>Prior to conducting soil borings, Cereza Energy Center LLC would contact DOE-HFO to determine the potential for encountering subsurface contamination and the possible need to perform radiological surveys and implement other work controls during soil boring operations and prior to shipping the soil samples offsite for laboratory analysis and testing.</p> <p>Test Pit Excavations - Cereza Energy Center LLC would excavate test pits for bulk sample collection. Each test pit would be extended to a depth of seven to ten feet, top of static water, or depth to refusal, whichever comes first. Test pits would be used to evaluate the subsurface profile and collect a five gallon bucket of soil material for laboratory testing. Upon completion, test pits would be backfilled with native soils.</p> <p>Prior to test pit excavations, Cereza Energy Center LLC would contact DOE-HFO to determine the potential for encountering subsurface contamination and the possible need to perform radiological surveys and implement other work controls during test pit excavations and prior to shipping the soil samples offsite for laboratory analysis and testing.</p> <p>Pile Load Testing - Pile load testing locations would be co-located with either soil boring or test pit excavation locations. As such, some testing locations would be co-located with each test pit and the remaining pile load tests would be co-located with soil borings.</p> <p>Each pile load test location would consist of a minimum of two "W6x9 Steel Beam" piles installed to varying embedment depths of seven to ten feet below grade. Each pile would be tested for uplift (axial) and/or lateral capacities. At a percentage of the locations, a pile would also be tested for compression capacity. Should pile installation encounter refusal, Cereza Energy Center LLC would mobilize a drilling rig, pre-drill the holes, install piles using a pile driving rig, and then conduct the pile load test. Cereza Energy Center LLC would record data about the type of refusal encountered.</p> <p>During pile load testing, Cereza Energy Center LLC would record drive times for each foot of embedment. Pile installation records, including confirming location, drive time, and noting damage during driving would be maintained by Cereza Energy Center LLC. Piles would be driven with a Vermeer PD10, Gayk 4000 HRE, or similar pile driving rig. After pile installation, piles would be set for a minimum of 72 hours prior to testing. After load testing sequences have been completed, Cereza Energy Center LLC would extract the piles and dispose of them offsite.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would contact DOE-HFO to survey for contamination prior to offsite disposal of piles. If cultural resources are encountered during this work, the pile load testing would be stopped until DOE-HFO CHRP personnel can assess the find, make appropriate notifications, and mitigate the find, as needed.</p> <p>Field Electrical Resistivity Testing - Cereza Energy Center LLC would perform in-field electrical resistivity testing (ERT) following procedures of ASTM G57, "Standard Test Method for Measurement of Soil Resistivity Using the Wenner Four-Electrode Method" and IEEE Standard 81, "Guide for Measuring Earth Resistivity, Ground Impedance, and Earth Surface Potentials of a Grounding System." At each location, a mutually perpendicular transect would be performed (one north-south, one east-west). An Advanced Geoscience, Inc. Mini Sting Unit (single channel soil resistivity meter) would be used to complete the testing and record atmospheric temperature, weather, and description of ground conditions.</p>	

NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF)
Categorically Excluded Actions (Continued)

Document ID #:
DOE/CX-00248

Land Surveying

Cereza Energy Center LLC would perform land survey activities through a subcontract following completion of cultural and ecological resource surveys to avoid disturbing sensitive areas. American Land Title Association and National Society of Professional Surveyors (ALTA/NSPS) land title survey GPS control would be established within the project area using horizontal datum based on NAD83 (2011), Washington State Plane, South Zone, U.S. Survey Feet, and vertical datum based on NAVD88, Geoid 18, U.S. Survey Feet. The following would be performed on the property to be surveyed, as appropriate:

- Historical survey information search;
- Monument and/or section corner search and recovery;
- Section corner and/or monument re-monumentation as required;
- Culvert identification, size, length, and material document;
- Collection of stream and ditch geometry with elevation data gathering;
- 811 One-Call coordination and surface marking;
- Record of survey mapping or corner certificates of location as required by state statutes.

The ALTA/NSPS Survey would be prepared according to the 2021 "Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey Specifications." The survey would include, as appropriate:

- Monuments placed (or a reference monument or witness to the corner) at all major corners of the boundary of the surveyed property, unless already marked or referenced by existing monuments or witnesses in close proximity to the corner.
- Exterior dimensions of all buildings at ground level. Measured height of all buildings above grade at a location specified by the client. If no location is specified, the point of measurement would be identified.
- Substantial features observed in the process of conducting the fieldwork.
- Evidence of underground utilities existing on or serving the surveyed property.
- Rectified orthophotography, photogrammetric mapping, remote sensing, airborne/mobile laser scanning and other similar products, tools, or technologies as the basis for showing the location of certain features (excluding boundaries) where ground measurements are not otherwise necessary to locate those features to an appropriate and acceptable accuracy relative to a nearby boundary.
- Evidence of recent earth moving work, building construction, or building additions observed in the process of conducting the fieldwork.
- Proposed changes in street right-of-way lines if such information is made available to the surveyor by the controlling jurisdiction. Evidence of recent street or sidewalk construction or repairs observed in the process of conducting the fieldwork.

The activities that would be conducted onsite include surveying and utility sweeping. One field crew would perform both activities.

For surveying, the crews would set survey control, aerial targets, and retracing boundaries. Because control points and aerial targets usually need to be visited during the life of the project, they are set in public rights-of-way. For the retracement of the boundary (section lines), and per the scope and standard operating procedures, the crew would be driving from section corner to section corner via a side-by-side Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) to minimize impact to local vegetation. Depending on the location and type of monument the field crews are trying to locate, there may be some digging involved. Once the initial field work is complete, the field crew would return to set monuments for all section corners that were lost or destroyed. These new monuments would consist of a 5/8 inch x 24 inch rebar with a 2.5 inch aluminum cap. The estimated time onsite for two visits is expected to be 17 days.

If cultural resources are encountered during this work, the land survey would be stopped until DOE-HFO CHRP personnel can assess the find, make appropriate notifications, and mitigate the find, as needed.

Aerial Mapping - Cereza Energy Center LLC would acquire Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) point clouds and high resolution color imagery with a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) compliant aircraft. A high accuracy laser scanner would be used for acquisition, along with a digital camera sensor. Cereza Energy Center LLC understands that LiDAR surveys have been conducted in the past for the Hanford Site and this data would be used to the extent possible. If new LiDAR flights are

<p>NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) Categorically Excluded Actions (Continued)</p>	<p>Document ID #: DOE/CX-00248</p>
<p>required, Cereza Energy Center LLC understands that there is a required DOE-HFO approval process for any flights over the Hanford Site and would go through the process prior to conducting any aerial surveys using FAA compliant aircraft. Similar requirements would also apply to the use of unmanned aircraft (i.e., drones), if used.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would be responsible for the selection and acquisition of ten aerial mapping control points. The control points would be surveyed and coordinates would be generated to provide horizontal and vertical control for the aerial data. Aerial targets would be placed within the extents of the flight area and Cereza Energy Center LLC would make all efforts to keep the control locations within the public right-of-way when possible. Aerial targets would be removed once Cereza Energy Center LLC is notified that the flight for the aerial acquisition has been completed and the data has been delivered and reviewed.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would perform ground truthing inside the identified project area. Seventy-five shots would be taken throughout the project area using GPS survey equipment that is based off the same control used for the aerial survey. These ground truthing points would be compared against the final LiDAR surface to generate a vertical accuracy report.</p> <p>Visible planimetric feature details at ground level would be collected and symbolized. The planimetric feature extraction would be limited to the following elements within the project area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exterior fence surrounding the facility; • Main interior roads within the facility grounds; • Standalone buildings located throughout the area; • General limits of processing equipment. <p>The following utility sweep equipment may be used to support the geophysical investigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipe and cable locator; • Magnetic locator. <p>The sweep would be performed along the project area perimeter as well as both edges of the road to the right-of-way and/or fence for all interior roads within the project area boundary. If findings are encountered, they would be traced through the entire project area boundary or termination of the utility. Findings would be recorded approximately every 200 feet and at all angle points.</p> <p>Work would be performed under the direct supervision of a Professional Land Surveyor licensed in the Washington State. Field crews are generally on foot because of the equipment used for utility sweeps. They would walk the project area perimeter and road ditches to locate and map utilities throughout the project area. The estimated time onsite for two visits is 19 days. Access to unpaved areas of the site is expected to be possible using a UTV. If cultural resources are encountered during this work, then the land survey would be stopped until DOE-HFO CHRP personnel can assess the find, make appropriate notifications, and mitigate the find, as needed.</p> <p>Visual Impact Analysis</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would prepare a visual impact assessment and glare analysis to evaluate and document potential visual impacts resulting from the Cereza Energy Center, in accordance with DOE-HFO requirements and applicable industry standards. The analysis would include determining key viewing locations, preparing visual simulations, and analyzing visual impacts. Cereza Energy Center LLC would use a zone of visual influence (ZVI) GIS model to show where Cereza Energy Center equipment, structures and infrastructures may be viewed from surrounding areas based on the location of facilities, dimensions of the facilities, and surrounding topography. The results of the ZVI GIS model would be used to identify potential viewpoints from sensitive receptors in the Cereza Energy Center viewshed and guide a subsequent field survey.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would drive paved and gravel roads within the Hanford Site to access the identified viewpoints. The viewpoints would be located along roads, in outdoor recreation areas (e.g., parks and trails), in residential areas, and in other publicly accessible sensitive viewing locations. Any off-road viewpoint locations within the project area would be accessed on foot. It is estimated that two visual resource specialists would conduct a four day field survey.</p> <p>The field survey team would assess the existing visual character and quality of the project area</p>	

<p>NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) Categorically Excluded Actions (Continued)</p>	<p>Document ID #: DOE/CX-00248</p>
<p>and photo-document the Cereza Energy Center from the identified viewpoints. Photographs taken during the field survey would be used to show existing/baseline visual character. After reviewing the results of the field survey, Cereza Energy Center LLC would select separate key observation points that are representative of views from sensitive receptors within the Cereza Energy Center viewshed for detailed visual impact analysis during the preparation of a separate NEPA review supporting the design, construction, and operation of the Facility. Data photograph location points would be collected using a GPS enabled device.</p> <p>Cereza Energy Center LLC would complete site characterization and environmental monitoring activities by driving paved and gravel roads to access the project area and conduct the field surveys. Off-road vehicle use and travel would be in accordance with the Hanford Site Fire Marshal Advisory Bulletin (AB07-001, Rev. 18, June 4, 2025). The purpose of the bulletin is to communicate the requirements for vehicles traveling off-road on the Hanford Site throughout all seasons by providing specific criteria that must be met based on the current fire danger levels and other increased fire risk conditions such as "Red Flag Warnings," when applicable. Off-road is defined as any natural terrain surface or any road surface including dirt, gravel, or pavement that is not being maintained in a way that prevents the underside of the vehicle from coming into contact with natural vegetation. A Red Flag Warning is a term used by fire weather forecasters to call attention to weather that may result in extreme fire hazard conditions. Such warnings are issued when the fire weather forecaster has a high degree of confidence that Red Flag criteria would exist within 24 hours after the warning is issued. Red Flag criteria can occur whenever the National Fire Danger Rating is HIGH, VERY HIGH, or EXTREME. Off-road vehicle activities would not be allowed if the Hanford Site is under a Red Flag Warning condition. Cereza Energy Center LLC would verify the current fire danger level before conducting any off-road driving and ensure that vehicles contain standard off-road safety equipment [i.e., hand shovel, fire extinguisher (minimum 2A:10B:C rating and additional 2.5 gallon pressurized water fire extinguisher or approved equal), and means of communication (radio or cell phone)].</p> <p>As a part of some of the field surveys, Cereza Energy Center LLC would perform limited, "windshield" surveillance of adjoining properties and surrounding areas to visually assess their conditions in relation to the resources being surveyed. Staff would not physically enter adjacent properties and no ground disturbing activities would take place on adjacent properties.</p> <p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>In accordance with DOE's NEPA regulations (10 CFR 1021.102) and separate but related NEPA implementing procedures, DOE has determined that categories of actions listed in Appendices A and B do not normally have a significant effect on the human environment and are categorically excluded from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). To find that the Proposed Action is excluded from the preparation of an EA or EIS, DOE must determine that the Cereza Energy Center LLC proposal to perform site characterization and environmental monitoring activities described herein would fit within one or more categories of actions listed in Appendix B (Appendix A categories of actions are excepted from NEPA review). Also, DOE must determine that the Cereza Energy Center LLC proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion by breaking the proposal down into smaller parts to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. The proposed site characterization and environmental monitoring activities would have independent utility and are part of a phased due diligence process to support separate NEPA review and subsequent decisions for the design, construction, and operation of the proposed Cereza Energy Center.</p> <p>Finally, there must be no extraordinary circumstances related to the Cereza Energy Center LLC proposed site characterization and environmental monitoring activities that would affect the significance of the environmental effects on the human environment such that a normally excluded action would have significant effects requiring either an EA or EIS. If an extraordinary circumstance exists, DOE-HFO nevertheless may apply one or more categorical exclusions if it is determined that the Proposed Action does not have the potential to result in significant effects despite the extraordinary circumstance, or the agency modifies the action to avoid the potential to result in significant effects. Categorical exclusions may include mitigation measures that would ensure that any environmental effects are not significant, so long as a process is established for monitoring and enforcing any required mitigation measures. In determining significance, DOE-HFO evaluates the Cereza Energy Center LLC site characterization and environmental monitoring proposal in the context of the affected environment and its resources. DOE-HFO considers long-term and short-term effects, beneficial and adverse effects, and other</p>	

<p>NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) Categorically Excluded Actions (Continued)</p>	<p>Document ID #: DOE/CX-00248</p>
<p>reasonably foreseeable environmental effects that have a close causal relationship to the Cereza Energy Center LLC proposal.</p> <p>In determining whether extraordinary circumstances exist, DOE considers conditions that are integral elements for applying Appendix B categorical exclusions to the Cereza Energy Center LLC site characterization and environmental monitoring proposal. To fit within a category of actions listed in Appendix B, DOE-HFO must determine the Cereza Energy Center LLC proposal to be one that would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements; would not require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; would not disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum or natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; would not have the potential to cause significant effects on environmentally sensitive resources (i.e., cultural or historic resources, ecological resources, specially designated areas, prime or unique farmland, special source aquifers, tundra/coral reefs/rain forests); and would not involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds or invasive species unless contained or confined in a manner to prevent unauthorized release into the environment. Cultural and ecological resource surveys, and related consultations, prior to conducting any ground disturbing activities would serve to avoid extraordinary circumstances by identifying appropriate mitigation measures to address potential impacts to sensitive areas and resources. Cereza Energy Center LLC would ensure that all NHPA requirements are met by engaging appropriate Area Native American Tribes and other consulting parties in the regulatory process. This would include identification of appropriate mitigation measures to address potentially significant adverse effects to sensitive areas and resources and may require the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve adverse effects, as needed.</p> <p>The Proposed Action to conduct site characterization and environmental monitoring activities to support the eventual NEPA review for the design, construction, and operation of the Cereza Energy Center is covered by DOE's NEPA regulations at 10 CFR 1021, Section 1021.102, "Application of Categorical Exclusions (categories of actions that normally do not require EAs or EISs)," Appendix B, Categorical Exclusion (CX) B3.1, "Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring," and associated NEPA implementing procedures. This CX covers site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Among other things, subpart (a) covers geological, geophysical (i.e., gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping including the establishment of survey marks. Subpart (c) covers the drilling/boring of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose zone. Subpart (f) covers the sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants. Subpart (i) covers activities related to sampling of flora and fauna. Subpart (j) covers archaeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR 800, "Protection of Historic Properties" and 43 CFR 7, "Protection of Archaeological Resources." Best management practices (BMPs) based on existing policies, practices, plans, standards, procedures, work activities, and other measures would be adopted and implemented to reduce the environmental impacts of designated activities, functions, or processes. BMPs would include, but not be limited to, provisions in the BRMP (DOE/RL-96-32, Rev. 2), the CHRMP (DOE/RL-98-10, current revision), and other applicable requirements (e.g., those required by federal, state, or local laws or regulations).</p> <p>If aerial LiDAR surveys are performed, then NEPA coverage would be provided by CX B3.2, "Aviation Activities." This CX covers aviation activities for survey, monitoring, or security purposes that comply with FAA regulations.</p> <p>As previously discussed, DOE-HFO and Hecate (now Savion) executed a Phased Easement Agreement on September 26, 2024. This agreement is an administrative and routine action excepted from NEPA review under 10 CFR 1021, Appendix A, A1, "Routine DOE Business Actions," which are necessary to support the normal conduct of business. In addition, 10 CFR 1021, Appendix A, A13, "Procedural Documents," would apply and covers administrative, organizational, and procedural requirements.</p> <p>In accordance with DOE's NEPA regulations (10 CFR 1021) and associated NEPA implementing</p>	

<p>NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) Categorically Excluded Actions (Continued)</p>	<p>Document ID #: DOE/CX-00248</p>
<p>procedures, Cereza Energy Center LLC is defined as an "Applicant" meaning a non-federal entity requesting authorization from DOE-HFO to perform a proposed action. "Authorization" means any agreement, license, permit, approval, finding, determination, or other administrative decision issued by a federal agency that is required or authorized under federal law in order to implement a proposed action. The executed Phased Easement Agreement and this NEPA Review Screening Form provide the authorization for Cereza Energy Center LLC to perform site characterization and environmental monitoring activities within the proposed Cereza Energy Center project area as described herein. The design, construction, and operation of the Cereza Energy Center would require additional and separate NEPA determination, review, and approval.</p> <p>Consistent with Section 5.0(b) and Section 5.4(e) of DOE's NEPA implementing procedures, categorical exclusions include activities foreseeably necessary to implement proposals (i.e., award of grants and contracts, site preparation, purchase and installation of equipment, and associated transportation activities). This categorical exclusion determination will be made available to the public by posting online, generally within two weeks of the determination and following information clearance for public release in accordance with DOE's NEPA regulations [10 CFR 1021.102(e)] and Section 5.4(e) of DOE's NEPA implementing procedures.</p> <p>Any changes to the Proposed Action described in this NEPA Review Screening Form may require additional review and approval as determined by the DOE-HFO NCO.</p>	
<p>III. Existing Evaluations (Provide with NRSF to DOE NCO):</p>	
<p>Maps:</p> <p>Figure 1 - Hanford Site within Washington State and Location for Proposed Cereza Energy Center</p> <p>Figure 2 - Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map and Designations (Cereza Energy Center Proposed Construction East of Route 10 near 400 Area)</p> <p>Figure 3 - Layout of Available Land (green) for Cereza Energy Center and Potential BPA Ashe Substation Interconnection Location</p> <p>Figure 4 - Conceptual Diagram of Components Comprising a Typical Utility-Scale Solar Facility</p>	
<p>Other Attachments:</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>IV. List Applicable CX(s) from 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, "Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Specific Agency Actions" or Appendix C, "Categorical Exclusions Adopted Pursuant to NEPA Section 109":</p> <p>B3.1, Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring; B3.2, Aviation Activities</p>	

NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) Categorically Excluded Actions (Continued)		Document ID #: DOE/CX-00248	
V. Extraordinary Circumstances [10 CFR 1021.102(b)(2)] and Integral Elements (10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, Paragraph B).		Yes	No
REQUIREMENTS			
Would the proposed action fail to fit one or more classes of actions listed in 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B and/or C (see Section IV)? If yes, please describe. N/A		<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Has the proposed action been segmented by breaking it into smaller parts to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion and avoid the appearance of significance of the total action? Segmentation does not include proposals developed and implemented over multiple phases where each phase results in a decision to proceed with subsequent phases.		<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Are there extraordinary circumstances that may affect the environmental impacts of the proposed action such that a normally excluded action would have a reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effect? The proposed action may be modified to avoid reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effects such that a categorical exclusion would apply. If yes, please describe. N/A		<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
INTEGRAL ELEMENTS			
Would the proposed action threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements related to the environment, safety, health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders?		<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities?		<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or natural gas products already in the environment such that there might be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases?		<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources? See examples in 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, Paragraph B(4).		<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, such that the action is not contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release, and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health?		<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
If "No" to all questions above, complete Section VI, and provide NRSF and any attachments to DOE NCO for review. If "Yes" to any of the questions above, contact DOE NCO for additional NEPA review.			
VI. Responsible Organization's Signatures:			
Initiator: <u>Christopher Powers, Cereza Energy Center</u> <i>Print First and Last Name</i>		Signed by: <u>Christopher Powers</u> B61F2ECFD6CB44D... <u>4/22/2026</u> <i>Signature / Date</i>	
Cognizant Program/Project Representative: <u>Tashina R. Jasso, DOE-HFO/SSD</u> <i>Print First and Last Name</i>		<u>Tashina Jasso</u> Digitally signed by TASHINA JASSO Date: 2026.04.22 14:28:59 -07'00' <i>Signature / Date</i>	
VII. DOE NEPA Compliance Officer Approval/Determination:			
Based on my review of information conveyed to me concerning the proposed action, the proposed action fits within the specified CX(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<u>Douglas H. Chapin, DOE-HFO/ECD/NCO</u> <i>Print First and Last Name</i>		<u>Douglas H. Chapin</u> Digitally signed by DOUGLAS CHAPIN Date: 2026.04.22 15:21:08 -07'00' <i>Signature / Date</i>	
NCO Comments (<i>Note: If comments are added, then this field must be filled out prior to entering the electronic signature in VII.</i>)			

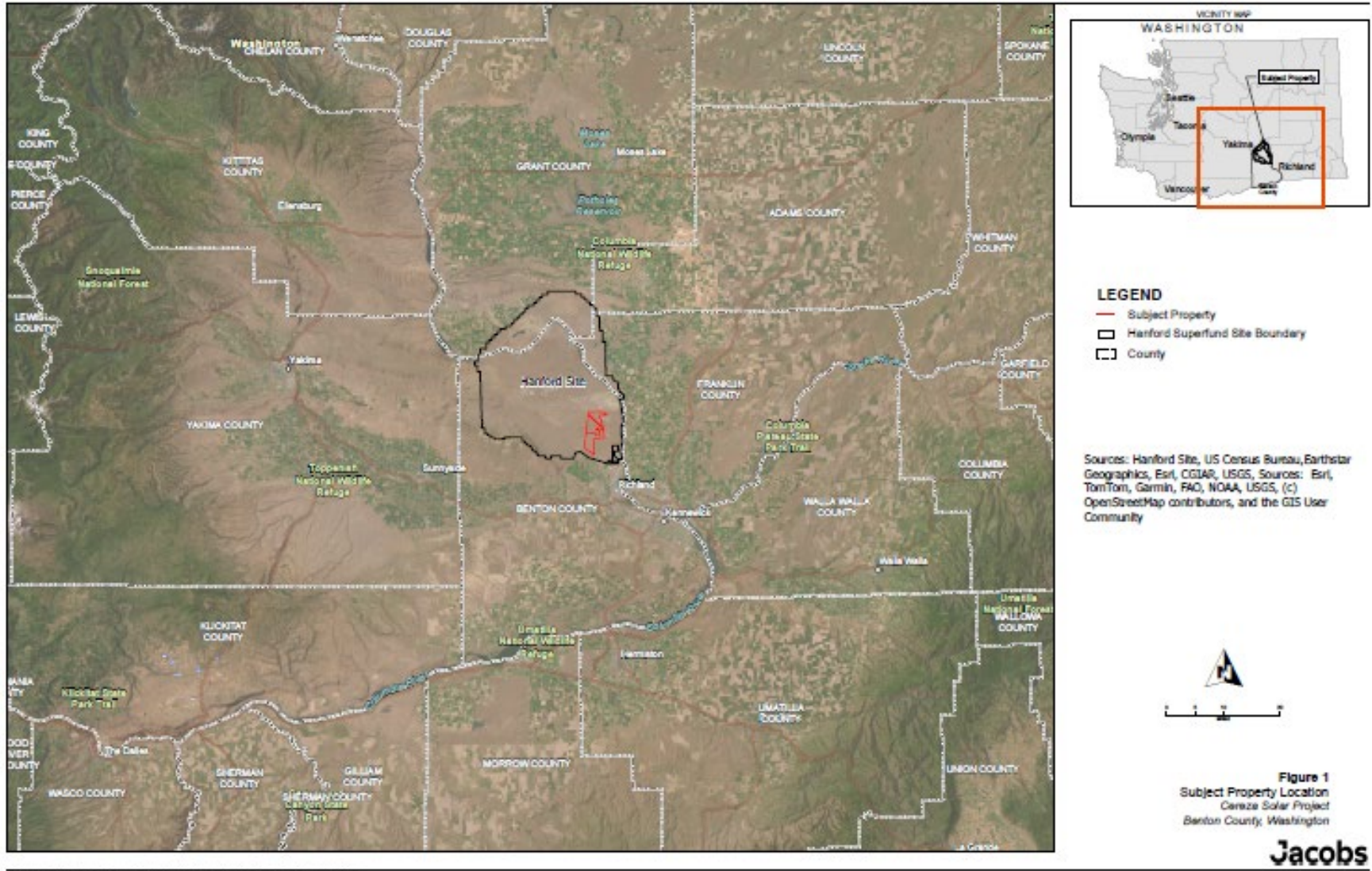
ATTACHMENT

DOE/CX-00248 Figures

Phase One, Part Two Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring to Support Design, Construction, and Operation of a Proposed Cereza Energy Center at the U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site

5 Pages (including this page)

Figure 1 – Hanford Site within Washington State and Location for Proposed Cereza Energy Center



**Figure 2 - Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map and Designations
(Cereza Energy Center Proposed Construction East of Route 10 near 400 Area)**

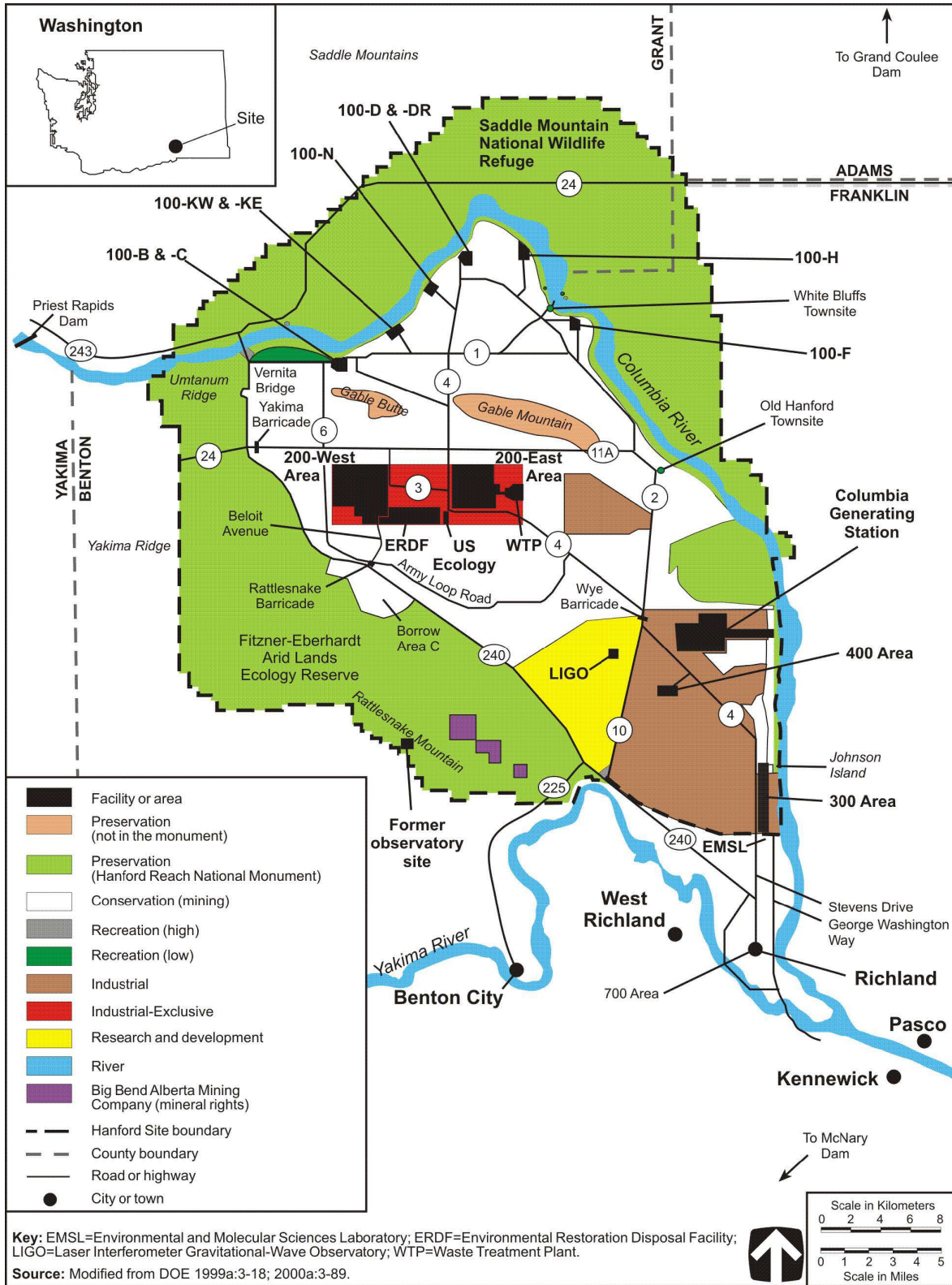


Figure 3 - Layout of Available Land (green) for Cereza Energy Center and Potential BPA Ashe Substation Interconnection Location

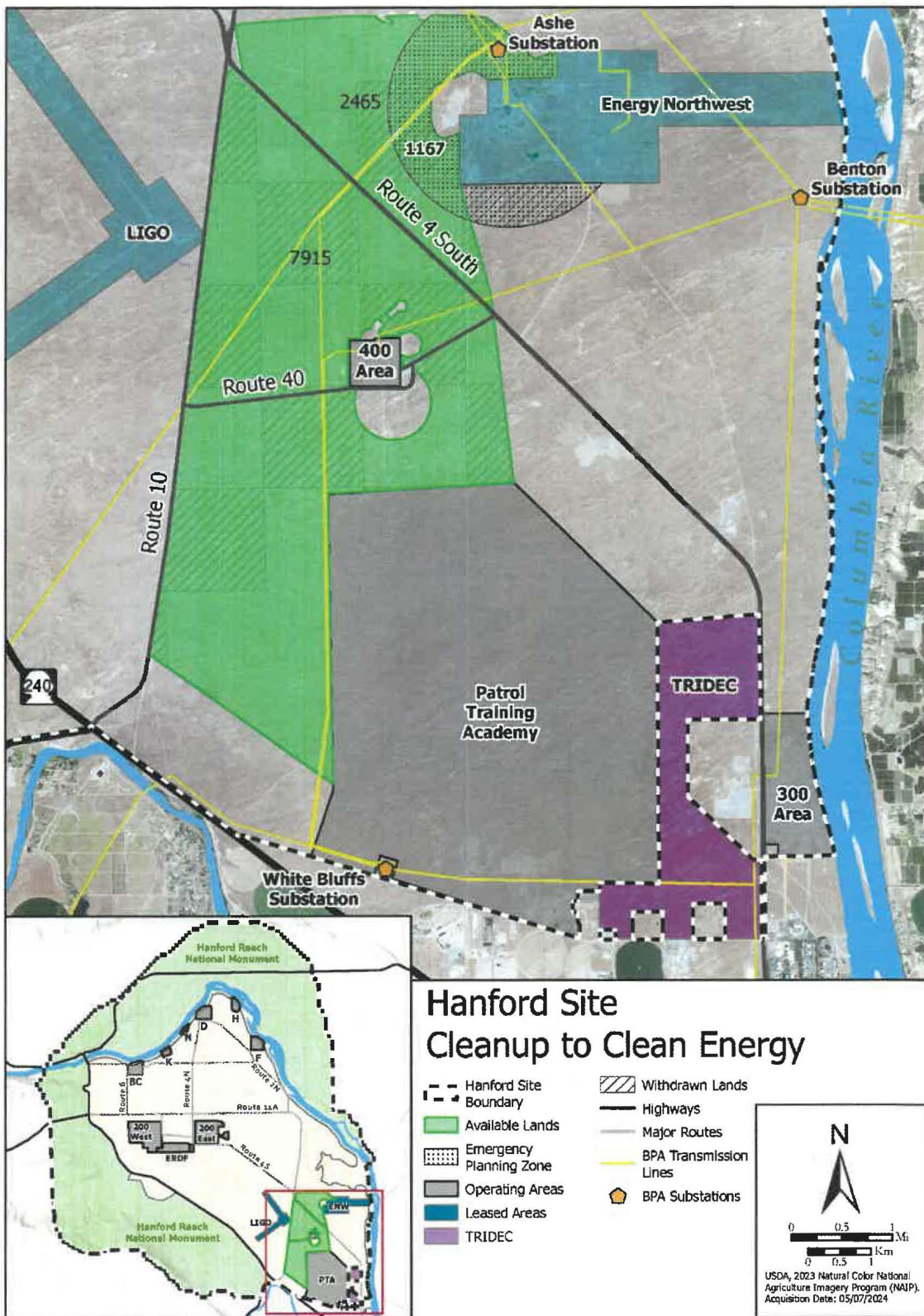


Figure 4 - Conceptual Diagram of Components Comprising a Typical Utility-Scale Solar Facility

