



# U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Grizzly Peak Substation Modification Project (LB-CX-21-05)

Program or Field Office: Bay Area Site Office, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Location(s) (City/County/State): Berkeley, California

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Proposed Action Description: The US Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to demolish and remove Buildings 56 and 64 from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL or Berkeley Lab) Bayview Planning Area (See Figure 1). These buildings are antiquated, are likely in need of remediation, and are rated as seismically "poor" under the University of California's seismic rating system. While Berkeley Lab envisions reuse of the entire Bayview Planning Area with future research buildings, there are currently no specific plans for the space that would be vacated by this proposal.

Building 56 is a one-story, approximately 1,800 gross-square-foot (gsf) research building that houses a small accelerator and a single occupant. It was constructed in 1996. The accelerator is mainly used for health-related research. Building 64 is a two-story, approximately 30,000 gsf research/office building that houses benchtop lab space, offices, storage, and 28 occupants. It was constructed in 1951. A certified historian conducted an evaluation and found that neither building represents a historic resource, is part of a potential historic district, or is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register.

For both buildings, site assessments and building characterizations are underway to document the expected presence of low-level contamination associated with such older research buildings: this may include asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, PCBs, induced radiation and/or radionuclide presence, and/or solvents and hydrocarbons in surrounding soils. After full characterization, remediation plans will be devised to address containment, safe removal, and appropriate disposal of contaminants under the oversight of Berkeley Lab's Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) Division. Soil is expected to be removed to a depth of seven feet. All handling, transportation, and final disposal of contaminated materials would be in full accordance with applicable federal and state regulations and standards. Building occupants and functions would be moved to alternative, existing locations on the LBNL site, although several Building 64 occupants are expected to be moved into the adjacent BioEPIC building, which is currently under construction. Specific plans for occupant relocations would be devised once funding is in place and a firm project schedule is known.

The proposed project would begin when funding and federal approvals were in hand; this is expected to be sometime in 2022, but given uncertainties in the federal funding process, it could occur sooner or later than that. The full project, including building decommissioning, abatement, demolition, and soil excavation, would likely take 12 months. It is expected that during peak activities, up to 35 project-related workers may be on site during a typical work day. A total of 3,500 construction truck trips over the lifetime of the project may be needed for hauling materials, soil, and equipment; these would average out to approximately 70 trips per week. Work would take place mainly during normal business hours from Monday through Friday, although weekend or off-hour work may occasionally be requested for safety related reasons. Equipment used for this project would likely include excavators, cranes, loaders, hauling trucks, and a variety of hand tools.

The Bayview Planning Area is medially situated in the western half of the 202-acre LBNL site. It is a bowl-shaped plateau surrounded by Lab buildings, retaining walls, and steep elevation changes in every direction. The nearest sensitive receptors are a dozen or so single-family residences approximately 1,000 feet or more to the north. Those receptors are well buffered from activity in the Bayview Planning Area by the above-mentioned features in addition to intervening foliage and dense woodlands. In recent years, the Bayview Planning Area has been the location of almost continuous heavy demolition and

construction activity (Bevatron Demolition, Bayview Cleanup Project, IGB construction, SURP Utility Project, etc.). During this time, monitoring and close neighbor communications by Berkeley Lab have demonstrated that noise, air emissions, truck traffic, and other project elements have not created substantial impacts or disturbances, even during occasional off-hours work.

The proposed project would follow all applicable LBNL "Standard Project Features" and other best practices that have contributed to the low level of project disturbance to off-site receptors. Dust control would be implemented and all necessary permits would be secured from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Noise monitoring would be conducted, as recommended by Berkeley Lab industrial hygienists and environmental planners, to minimize exposure to the nearest sensitive noise receptors; workers would furthermore follow best practices to minimize unnecessary noise generation. Neighbors would be kept informed of upcoming work and solicited for noise complaints in keeping with past practice. Construction truck trips would be managed by Berkeley Lab's Construction Coordinator to ensure that all construction trucks accessing the Berkeley Lab campus would stay well below significance thresholds. EH&S oversight and project adherence to all applicable regulations and standards would ensure that potential issues related to safety, hazards, and hazardous materials would be minimized.

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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.16 - Asbestos removal

B1.17 - Polychlorinated biphenyl removal

B1.23 - Demolition and disposal of buildings

B1.31 - Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment

B1.34 - Lead-based paint containment, removal, and disposal

B1.27 - Disconnection of utilities

B1.28 - Placing a facility in an environmentally safe condition

B1.33 - Stormwater runoff control

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For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) 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; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed action.

**LBNL Environmental  
Planner:**



Jeff Philliber

6/03/2021

Date Determined

**BASO NEPA Program  
Manager:**

**Jose Roldan** Digitally signed by Jose Roldan  
Date: 2021.06.07 12:14:38 -07'00'

Jose Roldan

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date.](#)

Date Determined

The above description accurately describes the proposed action, which reflects the requirements of the CX cited above. Therefore, I recommend that the proposed action be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

**BASO NEPA Program  
Manager:**

**Mary Gross** Digitally signed by Mary Gross  
Date: 2021.06.07 17:56:23  
-07'00'

Mary Gross

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date.](#)

Date Determined

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1 B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA Compliance  
Officer:**

Peter Siebach

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date.](#)

Date Determined

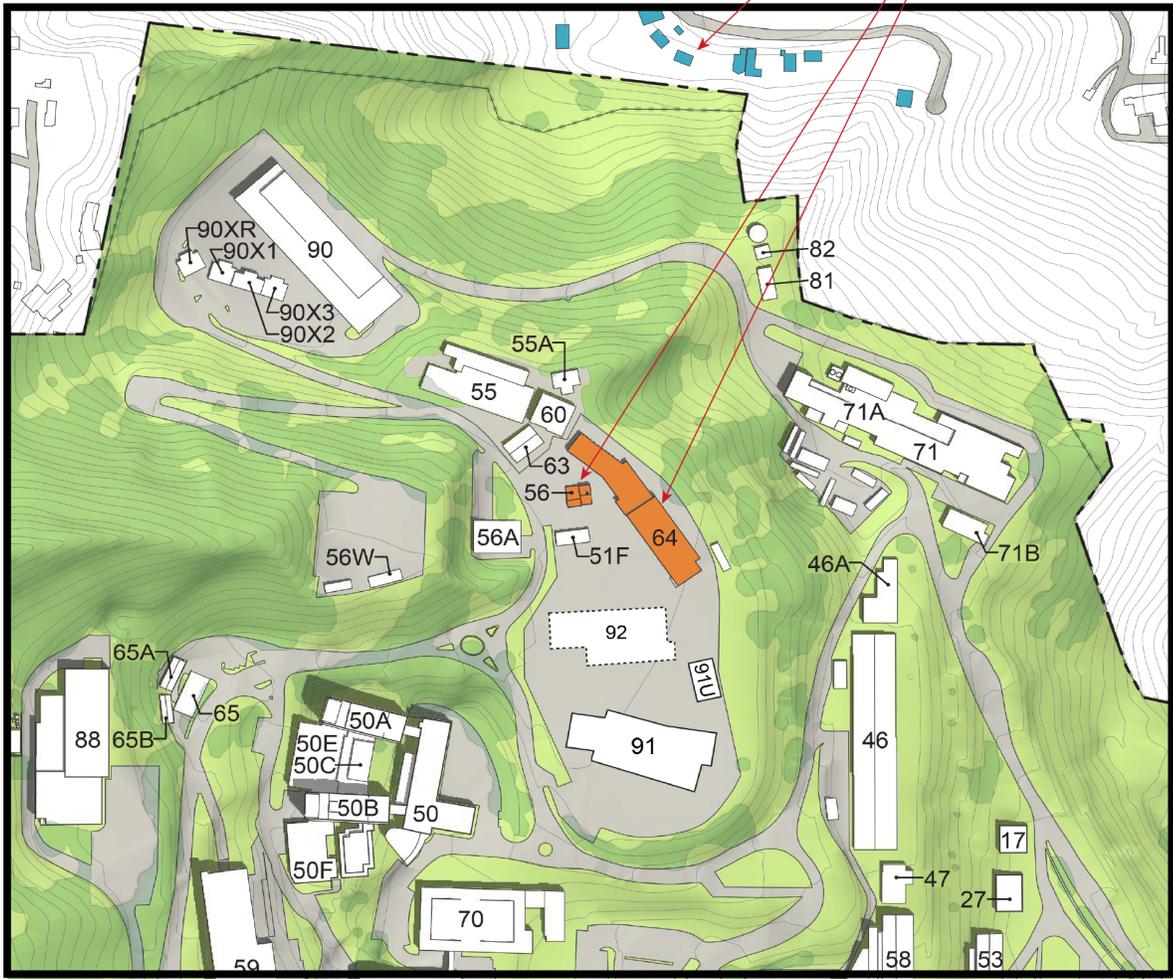


Figure 1: Bayview Planning Area and Project Site