



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Far Experimental Hall (FEH) Central Utility Plant (CUP) (SS-SC-26-01)

Program or Field Office: SLAC Site Office (SSO)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Menlo Park, California

Proposed Action Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to construct a Central Utility Plant (CUP) east of the Far Experimental Hall (FEH) Building 999 (B999) at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC) to support the existing and future operations at the SLAC FEH. The CUP is designed to house new chillers, pumps, processed cooling water skids, makeup air handling units, space allocation for CO₂ detector coolers, and electrical infrastructure to support all new equipment. The proposed CUP is a one-story building comprised of cast-in-place concrete walls with waterproofing system and composite roof deck supported by structural steel framing spanning across concrete walls.

The proposed CUP and related site improvements involve excavating into an existing hillside adjacent to the existing FEH and Building 750 (B750). The existing utility lines (sewer, fire water) under the hillside will be relocated under the existing fire lane located east of B750. In order to construct the CUP, the project plans on excavating an estimated 3,000 cubic yards of soil from the proposed ~4,440 square foot building footprint. Soil-disturbance, relocation and disposal activities will occur in coordination with the SLAC Environmental Health and Safety (ES&H) Department. If soil sampling results indicate that the soil is acceptable for reuse at SLAC, the soil will be placed within a pre-established stockpile area located on-site. To be considered acceptable for reuse, analytical results for chemicals of potential concern must be evaluated by Environmental Protection (EP) Department through SLAC's Excavation Permit Program. Asphalt and other construction byproducts will be handled and/or disposed of in coordination with SLAC's EP and Waste Management Departments to ensure no materials or pollutants are released to the environment or pose a threat to public health. The SLAC Waste Management Department will review and coordinate the disposal of all hazardous construction waste in accordance with SLAC's ES&H Manual Chapter 52 (Hazardous Materials and Waste Transportation). The CUP project will disturb less than one acre of soil and will submit an erosion and sedimentation plan, which will be reviewed and approved by SLAC's EP Department. The CUP project footprint will not exceed 5,000 square feet, therefore the project will not incorporate Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) Section 438 features into the overall design.

The CUP is not within viewshed of SLAC's historic properties, and a site-wide 2012 archaeological survey and records searches from 2019 and 2023 of the California Historical Resources Information System does not show any archaeological resources within the project

area that will be impacted by the proposed work; therefore, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated. Archaeologists meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards in Archaeology with Stanford Heritage Services made the determination of no impact to cultural resources. In the unlikely event that a discovery of cultural or paleontological resources is encountered, SLAC has developed an Inadvertent Discovery Plan, which provides guidance on how to handle unanticipated discovery of human remains or archaeological or cultural resources. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation Online Tool, eighteen federally listed wildlife species have potential to occur in the vicinity of SLAC. However, based on the known habitat and/or the rarity of the species, none of these species are expected to occur at SLAC. SLAC’s ES&H Manual Chapter 59 (Biological Resources Protection) provides guidance on managing proposed actions that could affect federally listed species and/or designated critical habitat. Grass is the predominant vegetation that grows on the existing hillside. If work is scheduled during the nesting bird season (2/15-8/31), a nesting bird survey will be conducted prior to excavation in accordance with the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Figure 1. CUP Location (Orange Rectangle)



Figure 2. 60% CUP Conceptual Drawing (Architecture)

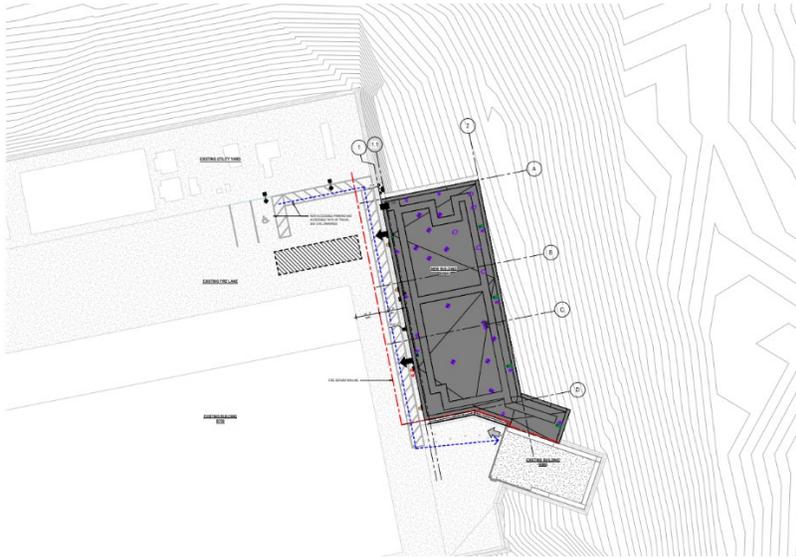
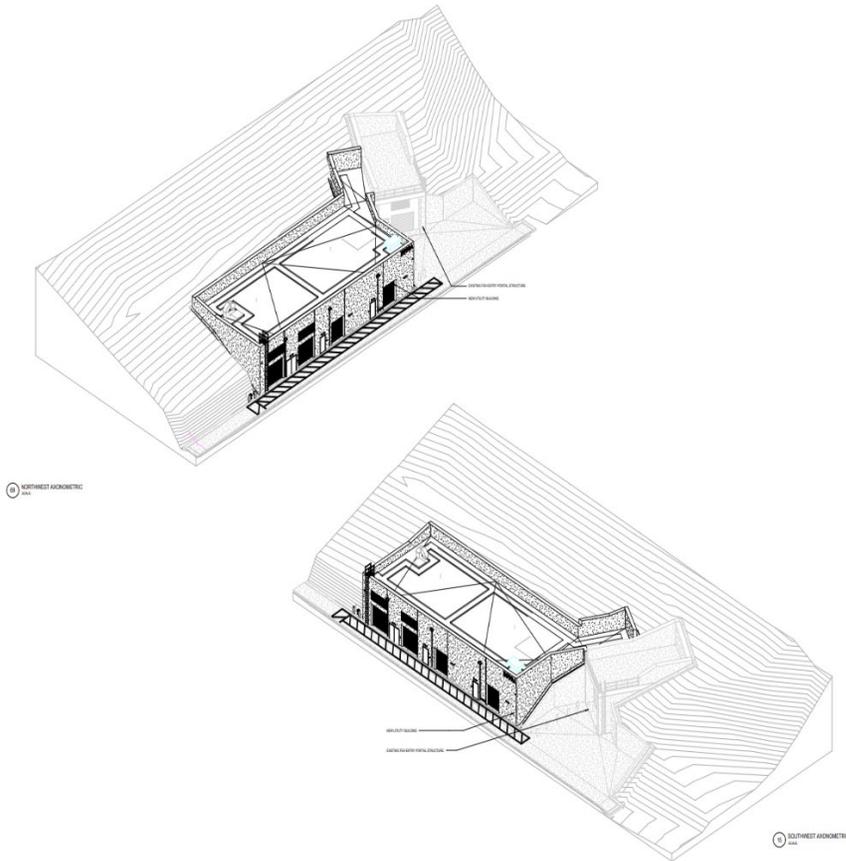


Figure 3. 60% CUP Exterior Building Perspective



Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.15 - Support Buildings
 - B2.2 - Building and Equipment Instrumentation
 - B2.3 - Personnel safety and health equipment
 - B2.5 - Facility safety and environmental improvements
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For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B to [10 CFR Part 1021](#), and also Section 5.4 (Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal) and Appendices B and C of [DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures](#) (June 30, 2025).

Requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures: (See full text in regulation and in Implementing Procedures)

- The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025).

To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.
- There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. DOE or an applicant may modify the proposal to avoid reasonably foreseeable adverse significant effects such that the categorical exclusion would apply.
- The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

[Note: For proposals that fit within the categorical exclusions listed in Appendix C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, see DOE's notice of adoption for the subject Appendix C categorical exclusion for additional considerations. DOE notices of adoption for other agency categorical exclusions may be found on [DOE's Section 109 webpage](#).]

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

SSO Program Point of Contact: N/A

Date:

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.

SSO NEPA Coordinator:

Date:

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

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined: