

**SECTION A. Project Title: 2021 Supplemental Environmental Projects****SECTION B. Project Description:**

There are two projects proposed as Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) to settle the penalty for DOE-ID in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for alleged violations of requirements of the Hazardous Waste Management Act (HWMA).

The SEPs are completed through agreement between DOE and the recipients to perform the work scope and provide progress reports to DOE. None of the projects take place on the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and all are performed by the recipients or entities they contract with to complete the work.

**SEP Project Descriptions:**

1. The Big Lost River Burnett Canal Project is proposed as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). This project would reshape and install a liner in two miles of the Burnett irrigation canal south of Mackay to improve the quality of return water into the Big Lost River through reduced erosion and to reduce the amount of water taken from the river, through reduced conveyance loss, e.g., water lost through infiltration. The project is in Custer County about seven miles downstream of the Mackay Dam, north and east of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site. Work will be performed by the Burnett Water Users Association in cooperation with the Big Lost River Irrigation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (Arco Field Office), the Big Lost River Ground Water District, and Cornerstone Geomatics. The Project was proposed to the Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID) by the Burnett Water Users Association.

The Burnett Canal diverts water from the Big Lost River approximately 7 miles downstream from Mackay Dam and supplies water to approximately 6,000 acres east of the Big Lost River. It conveys water from the Big Lost River and delivers it to irrigators during the summer months. The Burnett Canal is 16 miles in length and is measured at the head with a broad crested weir and with a parshall flume where it goes back into the river. Due to the unstable geomorphology, it is prone to high erosion and bed load sedimentation in the canal. This is both labor intensive to repair and environmentally degrading.

Lining the canal will address this problem and greatly improve water quality with little to no erosion and sediment movement. It would also help stabilize the canal banks and improve the delivery of water to meet irrigation needs. Less conveyance loss would mean less water would be needed to be diverted and more water would stay in the river which would help the fisheries and other farmers downstream. Lining the canal will also cut down on aquatic vegetation that grows in the canal that would eventually spread to the river.

The SEP proposed is Phase 1 of the larger project to line the entire Burnett Canal. Phase 1 will focus on the worst section of the Canal. The scope of the proposal is to shape and purchase and install impermeable lining to approximately 2 miles of the irrigation canal starting at the Highway 93 crossing of the canal then downstream for about 2 miles. The survey work has been completed by Cornerstone Geometrics and the design work will be completed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The project is environmentally beneficial since the purpose is to improve the quality of water returned to the Big Lost River through reduced erosion and decrease the amount of water removed from the river for irrigation by reducing conveyance loss.

2. Funding will be provided to the Southeastern Idaho Public Health District for use in response to COVID-19 to: purchase medical supplies and equipment, including personal protective equipment, and to conduct virus testing and contact tracing related to COVID-19. The funding may also be used to purchase COVID-19 vaccines and supplies, and to conduct vaccination clinics in support of "Idaho Rebounds: Road to Prosperity" in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact**

The project will reconstruct and shape a two-mile section of the Burnett irrigation canal and install a liner. The reconstruction includes sloping the bank at a 3-1 slope. This project will enhance water surface quality and quantity, reducing sediment contamination, and reducing removal of water from the Big Lost River west and north of the INL Site.

# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

**SECTION D. Determine the Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s):** Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

Note: For Categorical Exclusions (CXs) the proposed action must not: 1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE orders; 2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; 3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; 4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist which would affect the significance of the action, and the action is not "connected" nor "related" (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and (2), respectively) to other actions with potentially or cumulatively significant impacts.

#### References:

B5.1 Actions to Conserve Energy or Water: (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix.

Justification: The activity consists of providing funding to an organization to improve earthen structures and protect natural resources.

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)  Yes  No

Approved by Jason Anderson, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on 7/27/2021