

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: Fiber Line between ATR Complex and INTEC

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The proposed project would expand the fiber network between ATR Complex and INTEC. This expansion would install, terminate and test a 144-strand singlemode fiber optic cable between buildings TRA-604 at ATR Complex and CPP-1674 at INTEC. The routing path for this new fiber line would utilize existing and new ductbanks within both facilities as well as the existing high voltage distribution towers between the two complexes. The aerial portion (outside facility fences) would utilize government furnished cabling which would transition to the project-provided cabling for the underground portions of the installation.

At INTEC, overhead cable will enter the B21-620 substation control building and transition into an existing ductbank that leads to the handhole location at the NW corner of building CPP-653. A new ductbank will then be installed from that handhole to an existing manhole on the SE corner of CPP-1674. The new ductbank will be approximately 70 ft. in length, 2 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep and would disturb less than 20 cubic yards of soil.

At ATR Complex, the cabling would transition from the HV towers on the east side of the facility to the existing light poles installed around the perimeter fence. The aerial fiber will then transition to underground at pole LP-117, where a new ductbank would be installed to nearby vault V6 (approx. 40 feet). From there the cable would run through existing conduit to vault V1 at which point entering TRA-658. Once the cable is routed through TRA-658 it would run into the SMH vault and would then be pulled through existing conduit to TRA-604.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Fugitive dust may be generated when trenching the fiber optic ductbanks.

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

N/A

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Although a two-track road is located along side the entire route of the power line, vehicles may need to pull off the road to align for fiber pulls. There is a potential for disturbing artifacts or nesting birds while off-road.

Generating and Managing Waste

Typical construction debris such as scrap fiber optic cable, concrete, conduit, packaging material, RCRA empty marking paint cans, etc. may be generated during project activities. Hazardous waste is not expected to be generated.

Releasing Contaminants

Chemicals such as lubricants, adhesives, marking paint, fuels, cable cleaner, etc. may be used during project activities.

The new ductbank to be installed within the INTEC perimeter is located within CERCLA sites (CPP-88, CPP-95) and will require a Notice of Soil Disturbance (NSD), soil sampling and possibly waste management/disposal of contaminated soil.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Scrap metal will be recycled to the extent practical.

SECTION D. Determine Recommended Level of Environmental Review, Identify Reference(s), and State Justification: Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

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, or similar requirements of Department of Energy (DOE) or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted

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releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources (see 10 CFR 1021). In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist that would affect the significance of the action. In addition, the action is not "connected" to other action actions (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)) and is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1608.27(b)(7)).

References: 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to subpart D, items B4.7 Fiber Optic Cable

Justification: The project activities describe in the ECP are consistent with CX B4.7 "Adding fiber optic cables to transmission facilities or burying fiber optic cable in existing powerline or pipeline rights-of-way. Covered actions may include associated vaults and pulling and tensioning sites outside of rights-of-way in nearby previously disturbed or developed areas".

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

Approved by Jason L. Anderson, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 09/15/2021