

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: (AFRRI) Armed Forces Research Reactor Institute Reactor Operator Training

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The Armed Forces Research Reactor Institute (AFRRI) is revamping the reactor training program for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensed 1 MW Training Research Isotopes General Atomics (TRIGA) reactor. AFRRI's reactor is currently going through a License Amendment Request for switching to a new General Atomics (GA) Digital Console. AFRRI's training requirements require reactor operator (RO) candidates to conduct hands-on manipulation on a similar reactor. Since the Neutron Radiography (NRAD) TRIGA reactor and console are the most similar to the AFRRI TRIGA reactor and console, AFRRI proposes to train ROs under instruction at the NRAD reactor console.

The goal is to bring 9-15 personnel to Idaho National Laboratory (INL) for a week at a time. The following activities will be carried out:

1. 1/m startup (NRAD)
2. Rod calibration (NRAD)
3. Reactivity Coefficient Measurement (NRAD)
4. A reactor pulse (If NRAD cannot perform this, TREAT may be used)
5. Practice startup and shutdown procedure (NRAD)

Each individual RO is expected to conduct a minimum of two startups, go to a prescribed power level multiple times, and two shutdowns. During reactor operations, RO's will perform manual and automatic power excursions to demonstrate console indications and reactor response.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

N/A

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

N/A

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

While the TREAT facility was constructed prior to 1978 and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, this activity is not considered a modification to the facility and will thus not impact and cultural or biological resources.

Generating and Managing Waste

N/A

Releasing Contaminants

N/A

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

N/A

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 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

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“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: This activity is covered under Categorical Exclusion B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations".

Justification: Project activities in this EC are consistent with 10 CFR 1021 Appendix B to Subpart D, Categorical Exclusion B1.2 " Training exercises and simulations (including, but not limited to, firing-range training, small-scale and short-duration force-on-force exercises, emergency response training, fire fighter and rescue training, and decontamination and spill cleanup training) conducted under appropriately controlled conditions and in accordance with applicable requirements."

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: 08/03/2021