

# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

## Idaho National Laboratory

### SECTION A. Project Title: Power Line Testing on Circuit 56

### SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

Revision 1:

This revision covers mowing and non-energized testing along the powerline. Due to the mowing this changes the ECP from a tiered to a non-tiered ECP.

The customer is planning to conduct some non-energized testing from July 12-16 under the circuit 56 powerline between the first (west) crossing of Wilson Blvd and the second (east) crossing of Wilson Blvd – see map below. There activities will include vehicle and foot traffic along the two track road that follows the powerline with primary focus in the area between the circuit 56 junction that feeds Fillmore Facility and Bode Test. To facilitate this activity in our high fire hazard environment, INL will plan to mow along the two track road for vehicle travel from Wilson Blvd to the corner where the line forks. Near the corner, an area approximately 40ft x 200 ft (includes the road) will need to be mowed to allow parking adjacent to but along the road. The picture below shows the approximate location and size for the parking area.



Original EC:

The purpose of this program is to set up electric power experiments in support of the National and Homeland Security Program. The project involves power generation, transmission, and distribution equipment. All power line work would be performed from 2-track roads under, or near, the power lines. Each location was selected based on minimal invasiveness to the surrounding landscape within the project requirements/needs.

In continuing to set up electric power experiments in support of the National and Homeland Security Program for power grid research and testing, this test iteration will leverage the CITRC Substation, Circuit 56, the ARA Powerline Test Bed, and the area underneath and adjacent to the powerline. Work includes activities similar to past testing and will include reconfiguration of existing equipment and infrastructure, as well as temporary installation of test devices, under/near the 13.8kV distribution line to support power related resilience and reliability testing. Line work will require use of a bucket truck and/or lift equipment. Travel on the powerline maintenance road that serves circuit 56 will be necessary for placement of test equipment. Test equipment may include load banks (1-2), small generators (-30-50kW, 1-2 ea), and test trailers with computers/instrumentation with variable locations along Circuit 56 and at the ARA Power Line "Bode" Test Bed. To facilitate data and voice communications, fiber will be laid from Test Pad D near PBF 613 on the surface of the ground to the area where Circuit 56 crosses Wilson Blvd. Vehicle traffic will be confined to established paved and graveled roads and to the two track road used for performing maintenance on Circuit 56. Work schedule will be from approximately 7 a.m. and continue to approximately midnight. The figure below identifies the portion of the powerline that will be utilized.



**SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:**

**Air Emissions**

Some air pollutant emissions are expected from operation of mobile non-road engines, but are exempt from permitting per State of Idaho Air Regulations (IDAPA 58.01 .01 .222). These engines will remain on site no longer than one year and do not require preparation of an Air Permitting Applicability Determination (APAD).

Project activities may also generate fugitive dust. If generation of fugitive dust is expected from project operations, reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the particulate from becoming airborne (IDAPA 58.01.01.650-651). All dust suppression activities will be documented in accordance with requirements in the Permit to Construct No. P-2015.0023. The date, location, time, and the type and amount of dust suppressant used will be documented in project files.

**Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water**

N/A

**Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources**

All ground disturbances near CITRC must be monitored by an INL archaeologist with the authority to redirect work in the event of a discovery of sensitive items. Project personnel will work with the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Office to avoid impacts to known resources and complete the requisite surveys and monitoring. The CRM Office will also be contacted immediately and work will temporarily halt if any evidence of cultural/historical artifacts is discovered during project implementation. See Section E, Conditions, Items #1 and #3.

Because mowing is planned a cultural and biological review is required prior to mowing.

Project activities involving placement of temporary equipment may disturb wildlife or wildlife habitat. A review of areas impacted by the project will be requested of Veolia personnel. See Section E, Conditions, Items #2 and #3. Any areas where vegetation is disturbed or destroyed will be subject to weed control and/or revegetation requirements. Contact Joseph Stewart for inclusion of the areas in PLN-611. PLN-611 addresses control only of noxious weeds. Project personnel remain responsible for on-going control of invasive weeds, such as cheat-grass. Contact Colby Kramer, of Veolia, at 208 227-9031 for revegetation requirements. Project personnel have overall responsibility for weed control and/or revegetation (if needed); revegetation and weed control may require several years of effort. See Section D, Project-specific Instructions, Item # 2.

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### Generating and Managing Waste

Generation of hazardous waste is not anticipated, but is possible. Waste Generator Services (WGS) would characterize and manage all hazardous waste. Industrial waste, in the form of trash, scrap metal from construction, solder, wipes, rags, failed parts, will be characterized by the generator and managed for disposal by WGS. All scrap material will be recycled or excessed to the extent practicable.

### Releasing Contaminants

When chemicals are used during the project there is the potential for spills that could impact the environment (air, water, soil).

### Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources - Used equipment and material will be used/and or recycled to the extent practicable.

**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 "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, B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations" and B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects."

Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Wildland Management Environmental Assessment, DOE/EA-1372, April 2003.

### Justification:

Project activities are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations (including, but not limited to, firingrange 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;" and B3.6 "Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for small-scale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment."

Mowing for wildland fire fuel management has been evaluated in DOE/EA-1372.

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: 07/01/2021