

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: UAS ISR Threat Analysis

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The United States (U.S.) Army Combat Capability Development Command Soldier Center (CCDC-SC) has requested support from Idaho National Laboratory (INL) to analyze current counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) tactics for gathering intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) information to provide a baseline threat assessment. This assessment will identify vulnerabilities that can impact Soldier survivability. The proposed action will take place in several different environments, including desert, forest, snow, and other areas.

CCDC-SC representatives will oversee data collection at INL. INL Protective Force Security Teams will represent Warfighters in the United States Army. INL will fly UASs over an area at different altitudes attempting to locate the Protective Force Teams on the ground and collect pictures and video from the UAS. The Protective Force Security Teams will attempt to avoid detection and blend into the environment.

Project activities will occur on the INL Site and on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property with proper permission from BLM and DOE-ID.

INL will support additional UAS flight analysis locations as needed by CCDC-SC, but first approved by DOE-ID.

The proposed action uses the INL UAS runway for activities occurring on the INL Site. The project will use gasoline generators at the UAS runway. Off-road travel, digging, mowing, soil and vegetation disturbance are outside the scope of this analysis. Project activities require using portable restroom facilities.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Emissions will be generated from mobile generators. These generators will be in place for less than 1 year and are exempt from permitting.

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

N/A

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Impacts to cultural resources have the potential to result from unexpected events, such as malfunction, when UAVs are forced to ground to prevent leaving predetermined flight boundaries.

Although the chance for increased biological disturbance within the SGCA is minimal, there is the potential for some impact to wildlife and habitat during the course of the proposed action. Sage grouse could be impacted by noise and soil disturbance in the event of UAV malfunction.

Generating and Managing Waste

Typical municipal waste may be generated to include plastic bottles, paper, etc.

Releasing Contaminants

Because the proposed action would use fuels and other potentially hazardous industrial chemicals, there is the potential for release of small amounts of contaminants into the air, water, or soil.

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

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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 B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations," B3.2 "Aviation activities," and B3.11 "Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components."

Justification: The proposed action is 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;" B3.2, "B3.2 Aviation activities for survey, monitoring, or security purposes that comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations;"

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: 04/29/2021