

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: USGS Radar Gage Install BLR Site 13132520

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The USGS proposes to update USGS gage site (https://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv/?site_no=13132520&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060). The proposed action installs a radar unit to improve the measurement accuracy at this location. This activity involves anchoring a metal post in the ground to support a piece of equipment that hangs over the river. The project is within a previously disturbed area (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Location of USGS gage https://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv/?site_no=13132520&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060.



SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Minor amounts of fugitive dust will be generated while traveling to and from excavation sites.

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

The proposed project is expected to install a metal post near the channel of the Big Lost River. We expect no impact to surface, storm, or groundwater. The metal post depth is not expected to exceed 8 ft below land surface.

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Disturbance to cultural and biological resources is expected to be minimal where the work would be done at an existing gage site (USGS Gage 13132520). A pilot hole would be drilled into the ground, disturbing a small area of the surface and subsurface.

Generating and Managing Waste

The proposed action would generate common office trash.

Releasing Contaminants

Minimal to no contaminants are expected to be released during the installation.

Although not anticipated, there is a potential for spills when using chemicals or fueling equipment. In the event of a spill, notify facility environmental staff. If environmental staff cannot be contacted, report the release to the Spill Notification Team (208-241-6400). Clean up the spill and turn over spill cleanup materials to WGS.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Fuel will be used to access and return from sites. Paper products will be used for note-taking. Project personnel would use every opportunity to recycle, reuse, and recover materials and divert waste from the landfill when possible.

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, B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring"

Justification: Project activities are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

- a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing;
- b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools);
- c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells;
- d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment;
- e) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes);
- f) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams;
- g) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources);
- h) Sampling of flora or fauna; and

**DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION
Idaho National Laboratory**

i) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

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

Approved by Jason Sturm, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 07/09/2020