

# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION Idaho National Laboratory

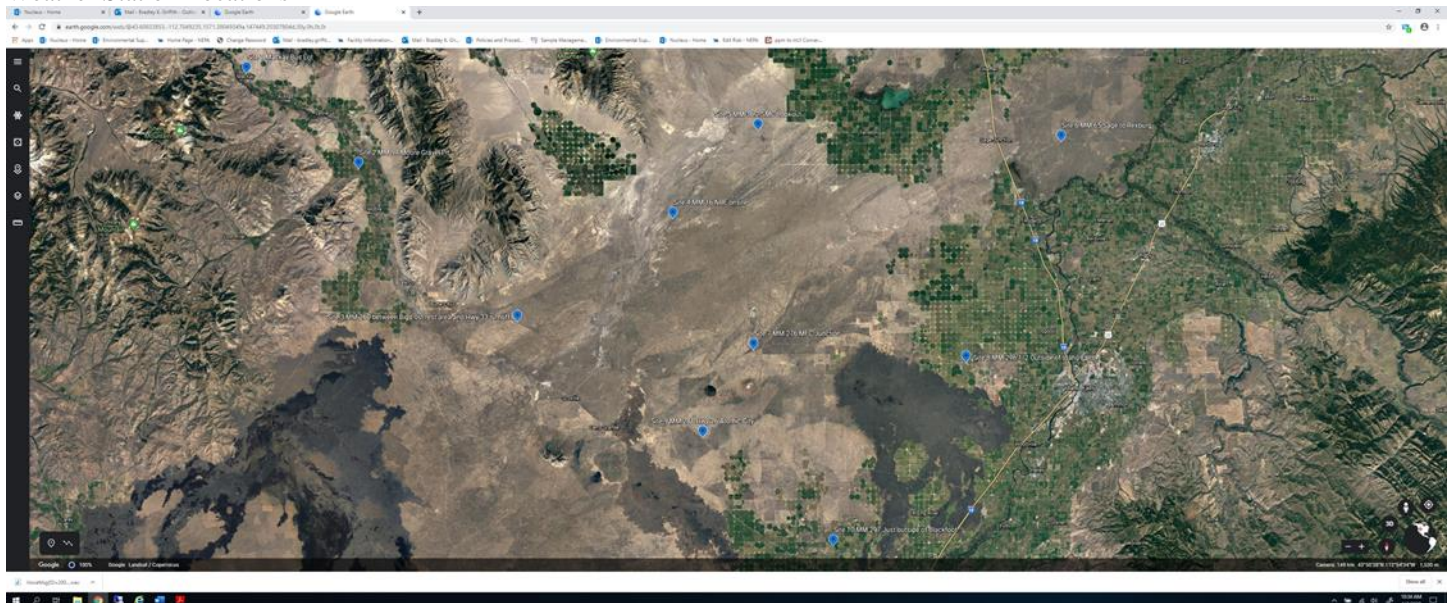
**SECTION A. Project Title:** Weather Station Installations on Highways 20, 26, 33, and 93

**SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:**

Additional real time weather information would enhance the capabilities of Transportation Services. This data would allow for input into the IBM weather program, providing them with more precise weather and road forecast information. This data would be a valuable tool for decision making and assuring safe operations for INL bus and commuter traffic.

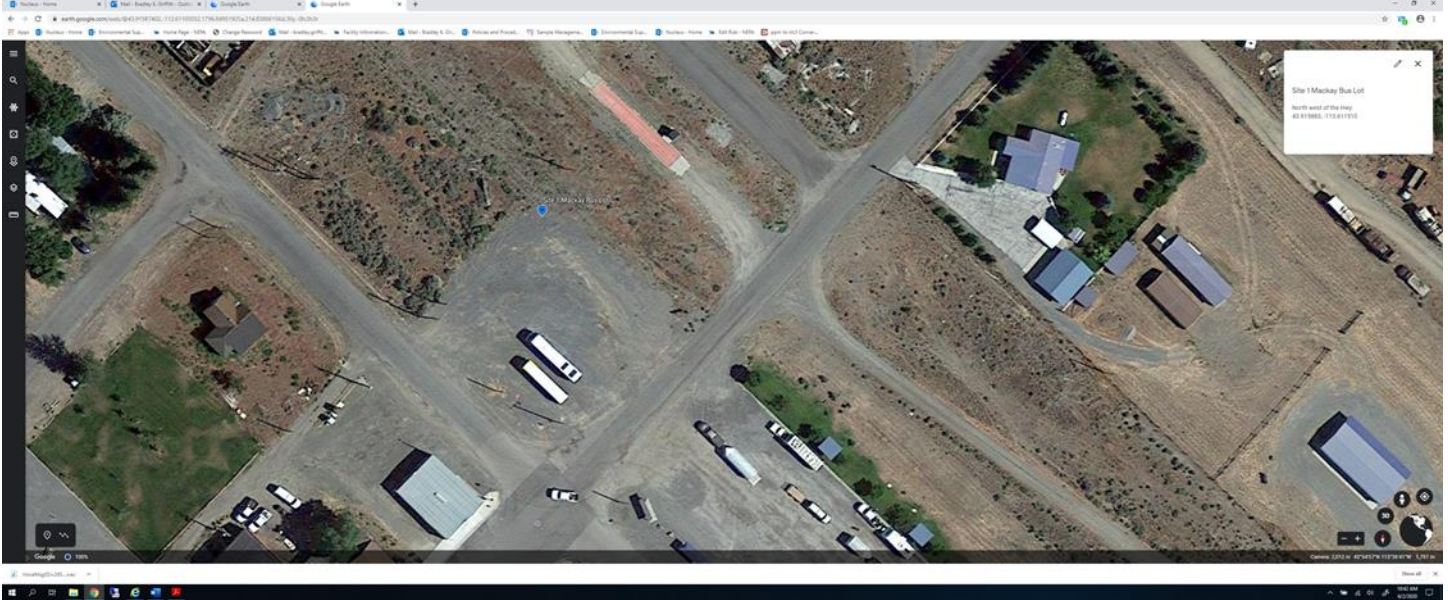
The proposed project would install ten new weather stations along highways near INL (see maps below). Installation would include placing a pre-cast concrete pad directly on the ground or on a gravel base. These pre-cast pads have assembled weather stations (tower, wind vane, precipitation gauge, solar panel power, data recorder, etc.) attached to them. A grounding rod will need to be driven into the ground at each location along with guy wires extending out 22 feet from the center of the pad. Locations along highways are within the Idaho Transportation Departments (ITD) right-of-way and some require off-road travel and disturbance. These are approximate locations and could be moved to avoid sensitive Cultural or Biological Resources. Maintenance of these weather stations will occasionally be necessary.

### Weather Station Locations

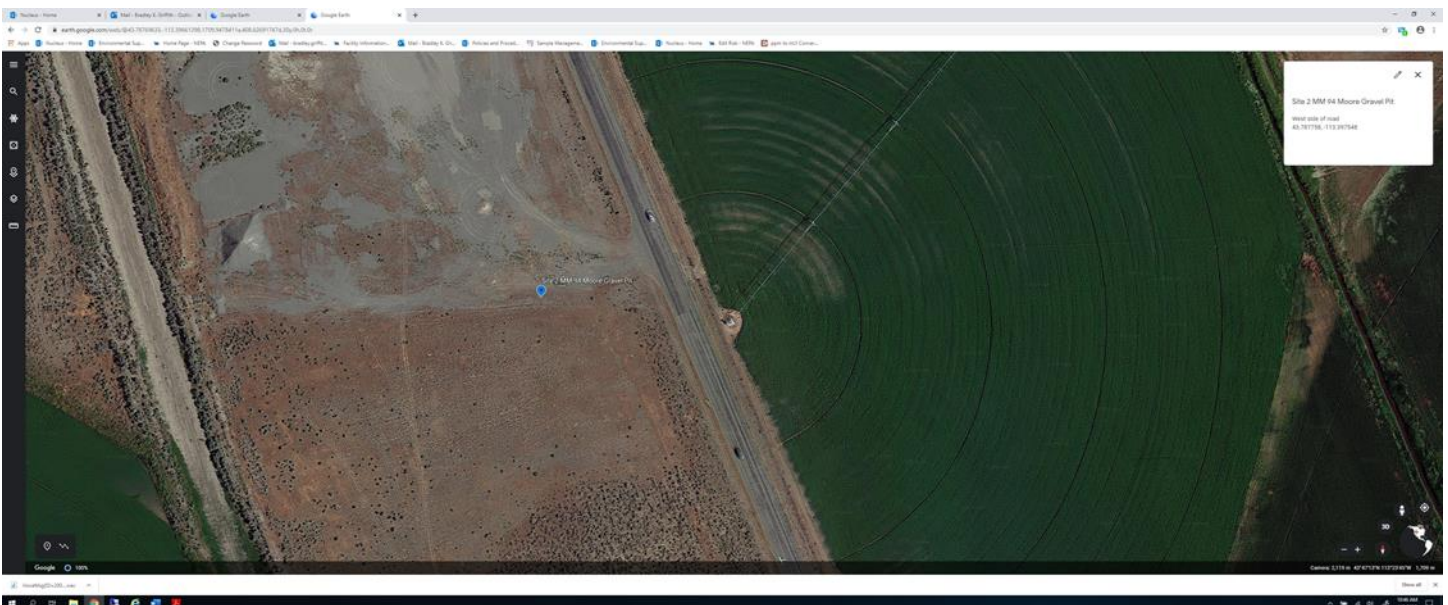


# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION Idaho National Laboratory

## Site 1. Mackey Bus Lot



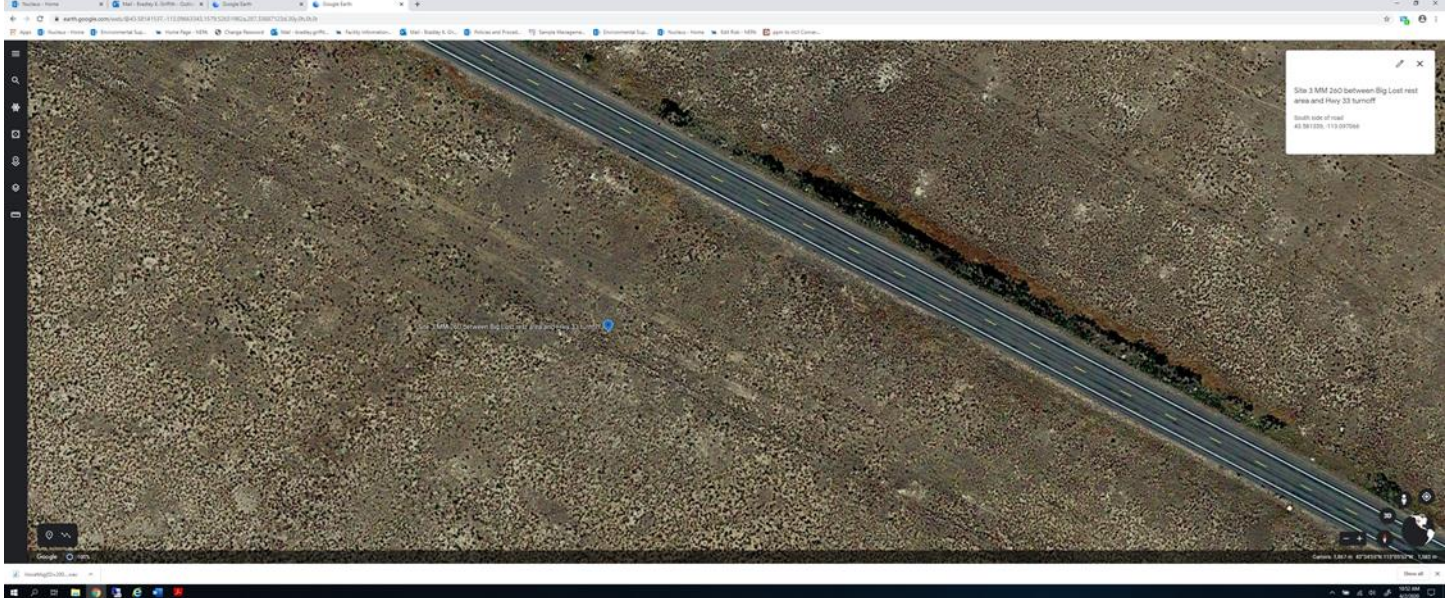
## Site 2. Mile Marker 94 (Hwy 93), Moore Gravel Pit



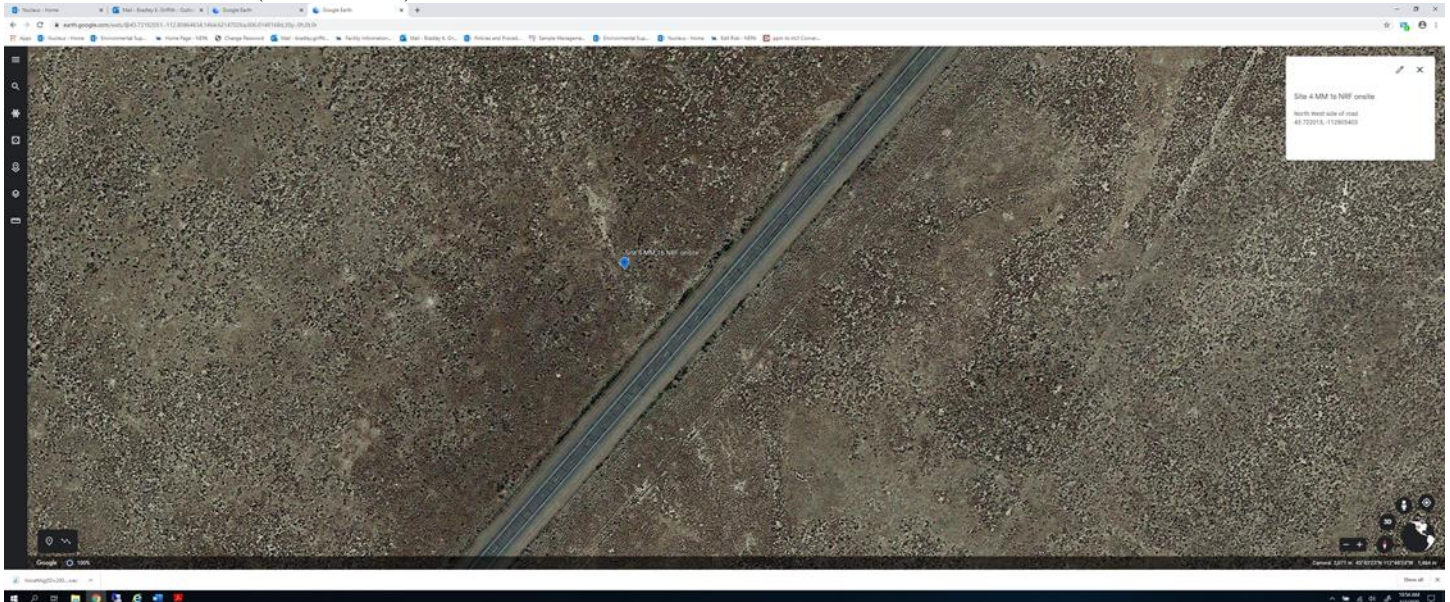


# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION Idaho National Laboratory

Site 3. Mile Marker 260 (Hwy 20), Between Big Lost Rest Area and Highway 33 Turn Off.



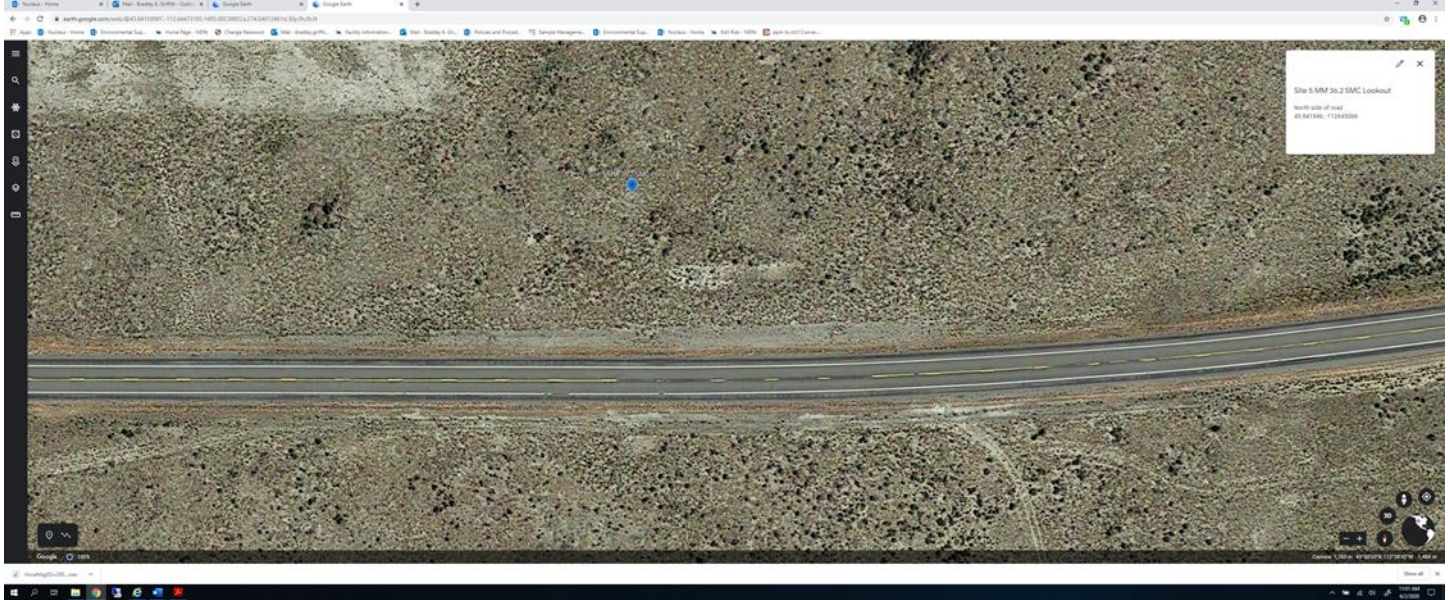
Site 4. Mile Marker 16 (Lincoln Blvd) NRF Onsite



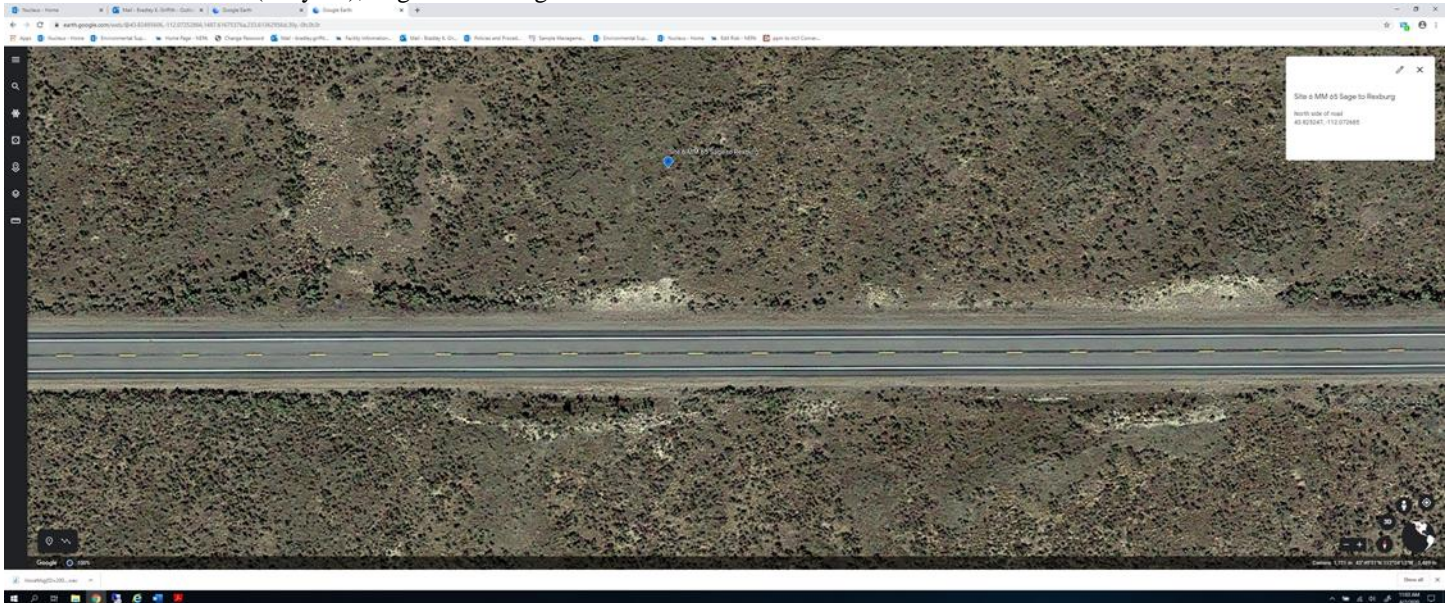


# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION Idaho National Laboratory

## Site 5. Mile Marker 36.2 (Hwy 33), SMC Lookout



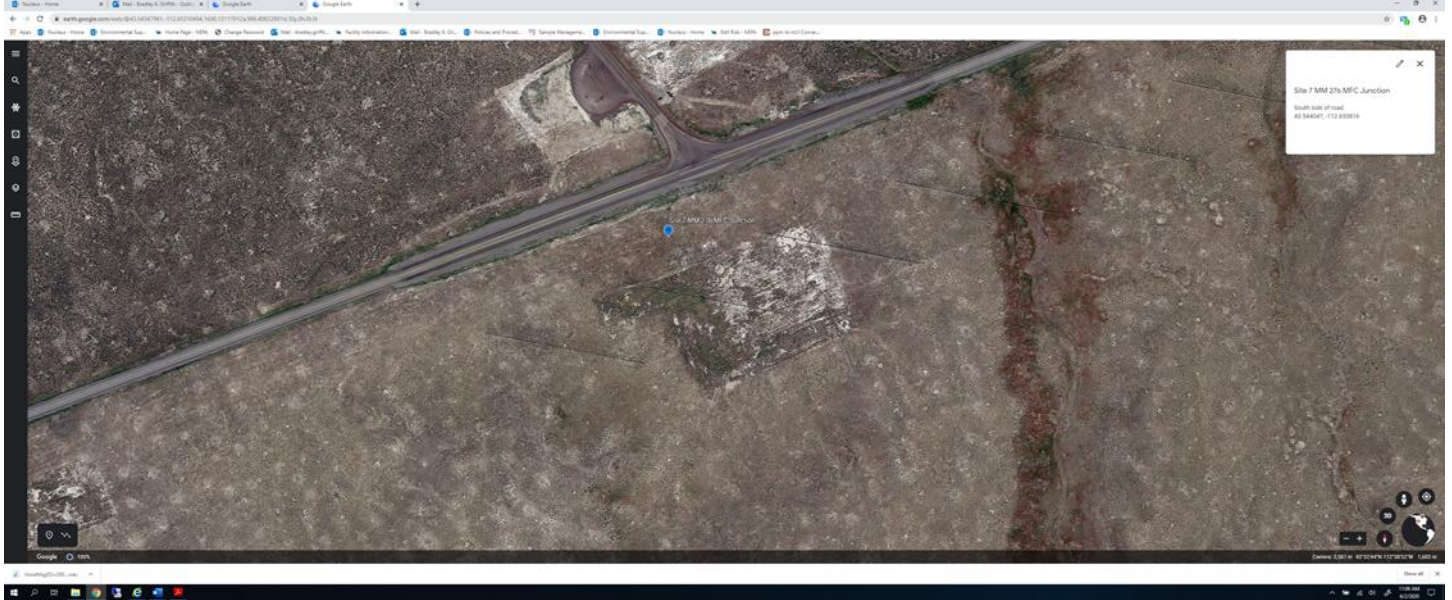
## Site 6. Mile Marker 65 (Hwy 33), Sage to Rexburg



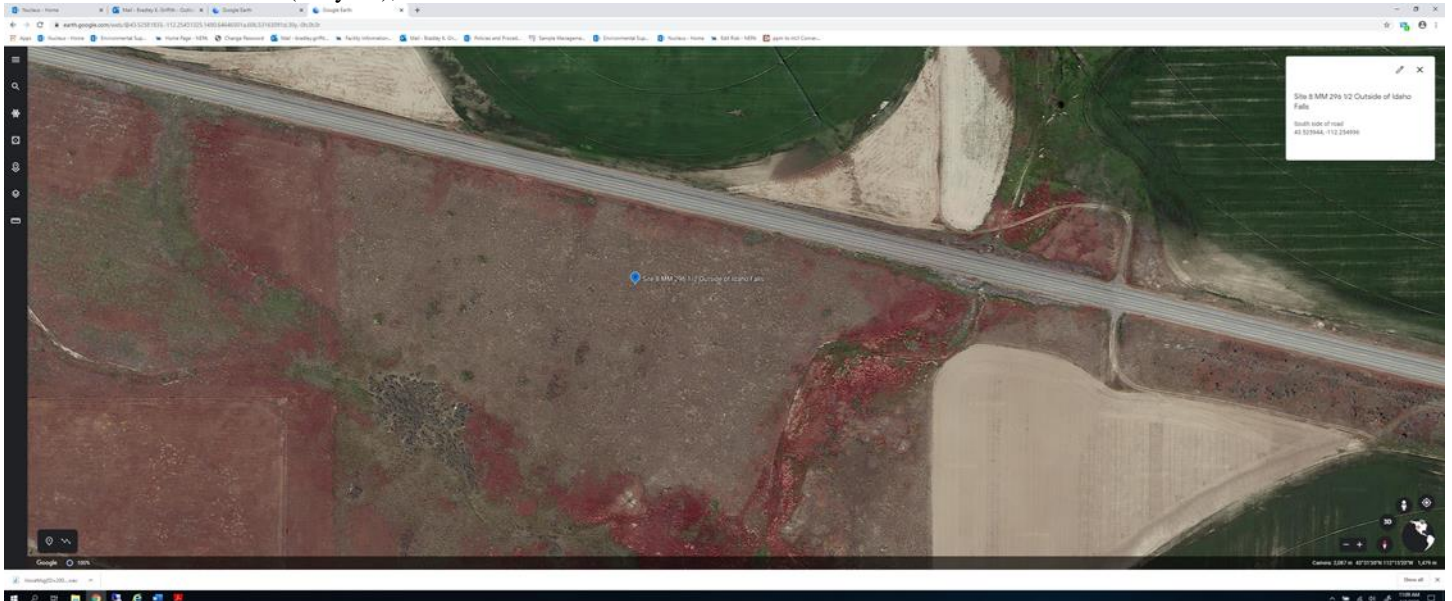


# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION Idaho National Laboratory

Site 7. Mile Marker 276 (Hwy 20), MFC Junction



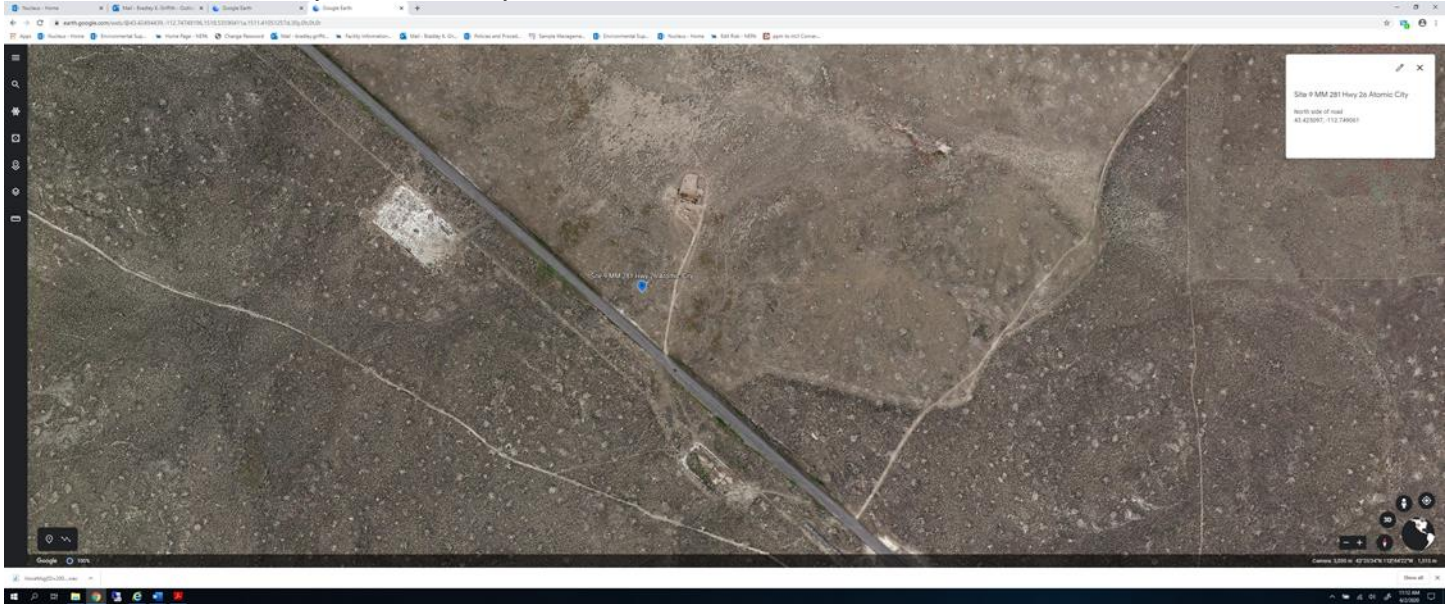
Site 8. Mile Marker 296.5 (Hwy 20), Outside Idaho Falls



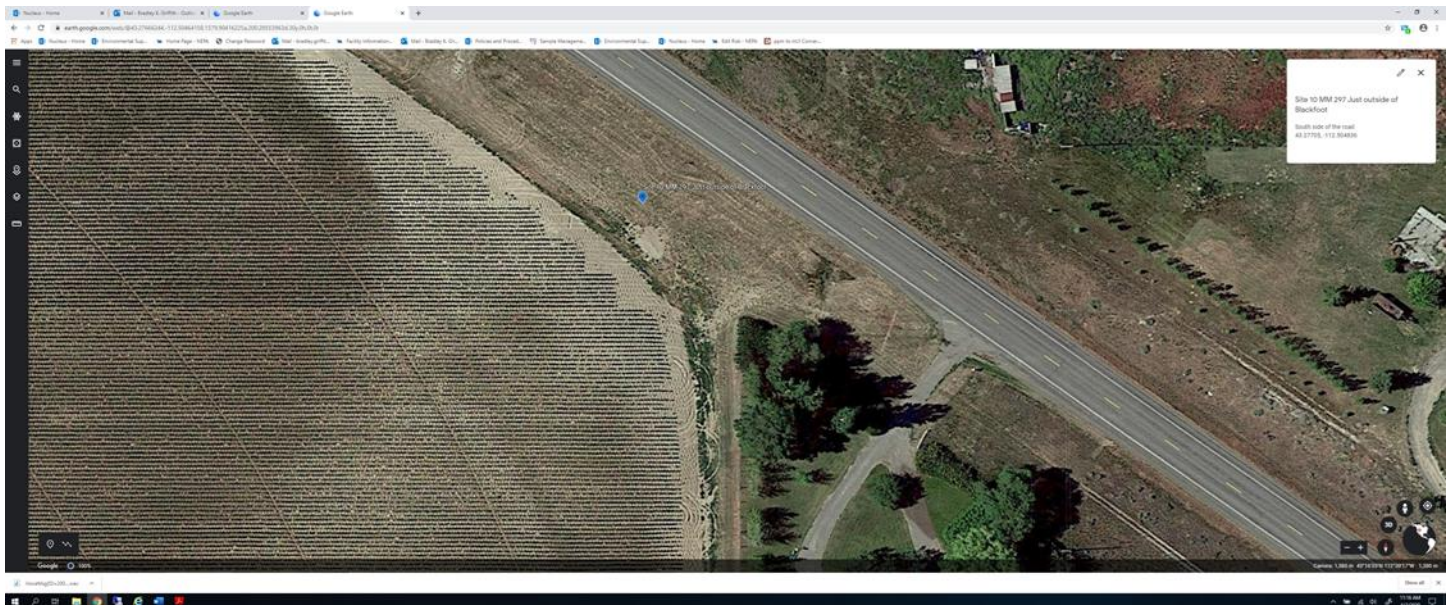


# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION Idaho National Laboratory

Site 9. Mile Marker 281 (Hwy 26), Atomic City



Site 10. Mile Marker 297 (Hwy 26), Just Outside of Blackfoot



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

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

**Air Emissions**

Fugitive dust may be generated while disturbing soil when installing weather stations pads.

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

**Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources**

Cultural or Biological resources may be disturbed while installing weather station pads.

**Generating and Managing Waste**

General non-hazardous construction debris is expected to be generated.

**Releasing Contaminants**

Use of chemicals such as fuels, lubricants, caulks, adhesives, etc. may be used when constructing the weather stations. There is a potential for spills from these chemicals such as when refueling equipment.

**Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources**

Small amounts of scrap metal will be available for recycle.

**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 to Subpart D, items B1.19 "Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers", B1.31 "Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment" and B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring."

**Justification:** Project activities are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B1.19 "Siting, construction, modification, operation, and removal of microwave, radio communication, and meteorological towers and associated facilities, provided that the towers and associated facilities would not be in a governmentally designated scenic area (see B(4)(iv) of this appendix) unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate governmental entity",

B1.31 "Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts", and

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 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: Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and

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

geophysical exploration tools); 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; Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; 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); Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); Sampling of flora or fauna; and 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: 7/6/2020