

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: Obsidian Test Pad Access Road Priority Upgrade

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

This EC addresses upgrading the current Obsidian Test Pad access road's priority from priority 3 to priority 2. The road is located between the Bode Substation access road and T-25 (see figure 1).

The Obsidian Test Pad at Idaho National Laboratory supports National & Homeland Security (N&HS) customer-directed tests. The current access road for the test pad is designated as priority-3 and is located between the Bode Substation access road and T-25. In its current state at priority 3, the access road is only allowed to be maintained through dump and fill, and coupled with its heavy use, this has led to a rapid deterioration of the road. To combat this degradation, Facilities & Site Services is proposing to upgrade the road to priority 2 to allow for regular maintenance and upkeep.

To upgrade the Obsidian Test Pad Access Road from a priority 3 to priority 2 road, the following actions must take place:

- A cultural resource survey of the road and the area of potential impact by personnel from the Cultural Resource Management Office (CRMO)
- A biological survey of the vegetation that will be disturbed
- A biological pre-project nesting bird survey

Figure 1. Obsidian Test Pad and Access Road



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SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Grading and graveling activities associated with this activity have the potential to generate fugitive dust. Project personnel must take actions to keep fugitive dust to a minimum.

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Nesting birds may be near the project. During migratory nesting bird season (April 1 – October 1), the project is likely to encounter nests containing birds and / or eggs located in vegetation or under the eaves of buildings. If this occurs, contact the facility PEL immediately. Do not remove bird nests or eggs without permission from the PEL, and cease any activities near the nests that could disturb the birds or their nests.

Grading and graveling activities have the potential to disturb cultural resources through soil disturbance. A cultural resource survey and written clearance (Cultural Resource Review) must be completed by the CRMO (Cultural Resource Management Office) for the upgraded road before project activities can begin.

Generating and Managing Waste

Project activities may generate small amounts of construction-related waste and, if so, will work with Waste Generator Services to characterize and dispose of properly.

Releasing Contaminants

Though not anticipated, there is a potential for spills of construction chemicals during completion of project activities.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Activities will require use of gravel/borrow sources.

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 Item B1.13, "Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines"

Justification: The activities in this EC are consistent with those described in 10 CFR 1021 Appendix B to Subpart D Item B1.13, "Construction, acquisition, and relocation, consistent with applicable right-of-way conditions and approved land use or transportation improvement plans, of pedestrian walkways and trails, bicycle paths, small outdoor fitness areas, and short access roads and rail lines (such as branch and spur lines)."

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: 4/20/20