

# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

## SECTION A. Project Title: **Advanced Remote Monitoring – Utilities Service Alliance**

## SECTION B. Project Description

Utilities Service Alliance, in collaboration with Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Vistra Energy, Talen Energy, Energy Northwest, and Xcel Energy, proposes to research, develop, and demonstrate RD&D a standardized online monitoring approach and advanced diagnostics software platform with automation and advanced remote monitoring. RD&D integration of advanced platform with automation and advanced remote monitoring technology at participating Utilities Service Alliance nuclear power plants. Demonstrations would include operator rounds, transformer-health monitoring, process anomaly detection, thermal performance, and fire watch. Installation of sensors and upgrading Wi-Fi infrastructure may be necessary.

## SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact

The utilities have procedures in place to handle any waste that will be generated through this project. The action would not create additional environmental impacts above those already occurring at the utilities.

## SECTION D. Determine the Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s): Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

Note: 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, including requirements of DOE orders; 2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; 3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; 4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist which would affect the significance of the action, and the action is not “connected” nor “related” (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and (2), respectively) to other actions with potentially or cumulatively significant impacts.

References: 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 development.

Justification: The activity consists of research activities to develop online monitoring at nuclear power plants to replace manually collected data.

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 10/16/2019