

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: INL Helicopter Training

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

Revision 1:

This revision identifies a change in the landing location and the number of landings. The new location is in the Critical Infrastructure Test Range Complex (CITRC) area and limited to a single landing of two Boeing A/MH-6M Little Bird helicopters. The helicopter(s) will land on the road about 400 meters south of the Power Burst Facility (PBF) building PBF-612, and three targets will be hand carried and placed on the T-Road north of the building. Bullet traps will also be hand-carried and placed on two-track roads or parking areas. There will be no off-road vehicle traffic. Personnel will walk through vegetation about 300 yards one time. Approximately 8 personnel will walk from the landing area to PBF-612. The training activity includes firing a total of 3 rounds each. The helicopters will pickup personnel near PBF-612 in the parking area. Vehicle traffic will be limited to roadways. Figure 1 describes the exercise area, location of targets/traps and the second landing area.

Figure 1. Exercise area.



Original EC:

The proposed action would perform training exercises using two UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopters at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) desert site in late July 2015. Data collection would occur during aerial portions of the testing, and the aircraft would operate within a flight zone determined by INL. The proposed action would require multiple landings of the helicopters to deliver data to testing components on the ground and to adjust or refine data collection parameters. After landing, passengers onboard the helicopters would leave the vehicles to coordinate collected information with ground personnel. Project activities would occur between the hours of 1800 and 0200 (local time) and would involve approximately 10 landings per night with only one helicopter

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landing at a time; helicopters would not land simultaneously. Landings would occur only on the Haul Road or the T-25 Road. When not engaged in testing, the aircraft would be parked at Fanning Field in Idaho Falls.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Project activities may generate fugitive dust. If generation of fugitive dust is expected from project operations, reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the particulate from becoming airborne (Idaho Administrative Procedures Act [IDAPA] 58.01.01.650-651).

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

There is a potential to disturb biological resources during the activity.

Generating Waste

Project activities will generate spent ammunition cartridges.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

All materials would be reused and recycled where economically practicable. All applicable waste would be diverted from disposal in the landfill where conditions allow.

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, B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations"

Justification: Project activities are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, 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."

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: 6/04/2019