

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: Installation of an Electric Fence on Crater Butte

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The Wireless Test Bed (WTB) location at Crater Butte needs to be protected from cattle grazing in the area. To protect WTB equipment, the proposed action installs an electric fence around the Crater Butte WTB site.

The project installs T-posts around the top of Crater Butte to support the fence. Installation includes a post at each corner or bend on the boundary as shown in Figure 1. T-posts will be left in place to reduce disturbance that would otherwise occur if T-posts were placed for every test. The T-posts will be removed when the location is no longer required for testing.

Figure 1. Proposed electric fence at Crater Butte WTB location



Figure 1. Proposed area to be fenced.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Project activities have the potential to impact biological and cultural resources. Surveys will be required prior to the installation of posts.

Sagebrush disturbance and mowing are prohibited.

Generating and Managing Waste

Activities will generate industrial waste (e.g., wire). All Solid Waste will be managed by WGS.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, and metal will be recycled to the extent practicable.

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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, Categorical Exclusions B1.11 "Installation of Fencing."

Justification: Project activities are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, B1.11 "Installation of fencing, including that for border marking, that will not adversely affect wildlife movements or surface water flow."

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: 8/27/2018