

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: GANNETT

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The goal of this research and development effort is to verify customer equipment and perform RF measurements. INL support will be logistical and technical. Normal hours of operation are planned from 0700 - 1800 hours.

The test includes a customer provided, telescoping 25 ft antenna deployed by driving a vehicle over the stand. The mast is hand deployed. The transmitter and mast will be located at the top of East Butte. A 2KW generator, placed in an approved metal pan designed for accidental spill containment, powers the transmitter. The antenna will be removed after test completion.

To conduct testing, two receivers will be mounted to trucks that will stop at various points along the testing route(s) to take measurements. The vehicles will not leave the road. Potential routes for the vehicles/receivers are:

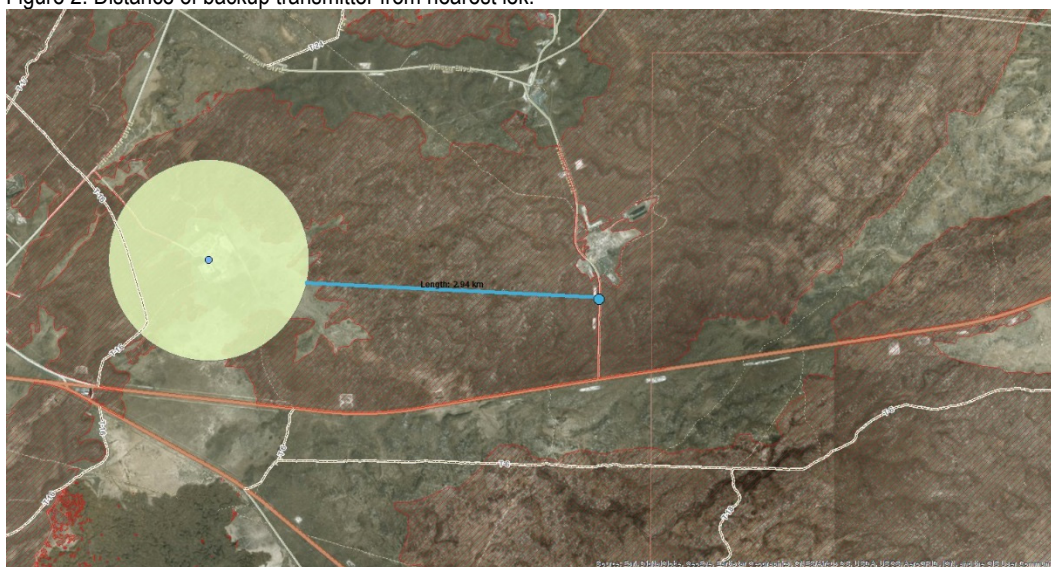
1. T-3 road east of Taylor Blvd
2. T-24 road west of the intersection with T-3 to Fillmore Blvd
3. T-6 from State Hwy 26 to the intersection with T-19
4. T-18 from State Hwy to the intersection of T-6.

A backup transmitter utilizing a 106 ft. tower will be placed on the paved road surface at the south end of Fillmore Blvd (ARA-I Area) as shown in Figure 1. This location is about 3 km from the nearest sage grouse lek buffer area but is within the Sage-grouse Conservation Area (SGCA) as shown in Figure 2. A grounding rod will be required at this location and will be placed as close to the road as possible. A subsurface investigation and cultural and biological resource review is required for insertion of the grounding rod. A trailer mounted gas 7KW generator will be used to raise the tower mast. A smaller generator would be used for actual operation of the transmitter. All activities associated with the tower will be in accordance with the equipment owner's (Rich Watson, LSC) laboratory instruction. The project must remove the tower when the proposed activity is completed.

Figure 1. Location of backup transmitter on Fillmore Blvd near ARA-I.



Figure 2. Distance of backup transmitter from nearest lek.



SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Gas-fueled portable electrical generators will release air emissions. These emissions are exempt from air permitting evaluations.

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Project activities have the potential to disturb biological and cultural resources.

The activity is proposed to begin during nesting bird season and sage grouse breeding season.

Generating and Managing Waste

This work is expected to generate small amounts of common office trash. Trash will be disposed in WGS-provided containers at CFA.

Releasing Contaminants

While not expected, generator refueling activities have the potential to spill petroleum to the ground. In the event of a spill, notify facility PEL. If the PEL cannot be contacted, report the release to the Spill Notification Team (208-241-6400). Clean up the spill and turn over spill cleanup materials to WGS.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

The customer will provide their own equipment for testing. Equipment will be removed by the customer upon completion of the testing.

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)).

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References: 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B1.19 "Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers" and B3.11 "Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components."

Justification: Project activities described in this EC are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, item B1.16 "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;" and

B3.11 "Outdoor tests and experiments for the development, quality assurance, or reliability of materials and equipment (including, but not limited to, weapon system components) under controlled conditions. Covered actions include, but are not limited to, burn tests (such as tests of electric cable fire resistance or the combustion characteristics of fuels), impact tests (such as pneumatic ejector tests using earthen embankments or concrete slabs designated and routinely used for that purpose), or drop, puncture, water immersion, or thermal tests. Covered actions would not involve source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials, except encapsulated sources manufactured to applicable standards that contain source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials may be used for nondestructive actions such as detector/sensor development and testing and first responder field training.

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: 5/15/2018