

**SECTION A. Project Title: Tribal DOE Program/Agreement-In-Principle – Shoshone-Bannock Tribes****SECTION B. Project Description**

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' Tribal DOE (TDOE) and Cultural Resources/Heritage Tribal Office (CR/HeTO) Programs have continuously operated under the Agreement in Principle (AIP) and continued funding by the Department of Energy (DOE) Cooperative Agreement. The mission of The Tribal DOE and CR/HeTO programs focuses on involvement and monitoring of DOE activities on the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) site that may affect the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. To accomplish this mission the programs are committed to the involvement in cultural, educational, environmental issues, economic development, and nuclear waste transportation issues across the reservation. DOE provides partial funding to Air Quality and Department of Public Safety, to assure DOE activities are preventative and protective of the Tribes interests regarding the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, our ceded territories, aboriginal and treaty lands.

The Tribes may choose to collect baseline data on hazardous contaminant and/or radiation levels on or near the Reservation or any unoccupied lands, for the purposes of determining both background levels and any elevated levels that may result from other INL activities, identifying impacts associated with transportation of radioactive or hazardous materials, and assessing the need for the Tribes' continued monitoring efforts. DOE will support the Tribes determination of requiring other sampling efforts for other purposes relative to health, safety, and environment. TDOE staff will continue the monitoring program by co-sampling 12-14 wells with USGS as well as 10-12 soil samples along the shipment routes annually. The program determined in FY 2016 to develop and improve the Environmental Sampling Program to address the INL operations impacts on areas where traditional and cultural activities occur as well as a uniformed sampling within the reservation boundaries in proximity to the INL property. The Program will proceed with Background and Baseline data of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Baseline and background monitoring data should be reflective of all media that the receptors are impacted by, including, tissue sampling from traditional food sources and vegetation sampling of culturally significant plants. Sampling of water (surface and ground), soil, vegetation, wells, air, milk, radionuclides, transuranic radionuclides and tissues to continue baseline data collection and determination of elevated radiation levels of culturally significant areas will be performed. A sampling program with validated data will also require equipment for collecting soil, vegetation, milk, tissue, radionuclides, transuranic nuclides and water parameters.

DOE will continue to fully support the maintenance and operation of an Environmental Community Monitoring Station (CMS) on the Reservation. DOE will support the Tribes by committing Cooperative Agreement funds, technical assistance, and supporting the partnership between the Tribes, the INL State Oversight Program, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This includes the necessary accommodations to access the existing State/NOAA/INL monitoring network in accordance with DOE security requirements.

DOE will support the development and implementation of a data management system and GIS as functional tools for accomplishing the objectives identified in this Agreement.

Field activities for all AIP Programs may require personal protective equipment (PPE) that is above the standard of the daily requirement. The Health and Safety Plans and OSHA regulations require PPE to prevent extreme environmental conditions (heat, cold, wind, etc), and other workplace factors impacting field personnel. They will also purchase other equipment intended for fulfilling their field objectives in a safe and timely manner: coolers, flags, hardhats, shovels, sampling equipment, eyewear, boots, fire preventative, tools, etc. Equipment for sample collection is also required per the quality management plan (QMP): refrigerators, freezers, field tools, and containers.

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

The proposal includes sampling of water (surface and ground), soil, vegetation, wells, air, milk, radionuclides, transuranic radionuclides and tissues to continue baseline data collection and determination of elevated radiation levels of culturally significant areas. Samples will be sent to a certified laboratory for analysis and disposal. The action would not create additional environmental impacts above those already occurring within Tribal/DOE Environmental Monitoring Program.

**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

## DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

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: B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis.) Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments.

Justification: The activity consists of providing oversight and environmental monitoring.

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 09/26/2016