

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: DAISE

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) is headquartered in Patuxent River, Md. NAVAIR is proposing to conduct tests on radio frequency equipment. Tests may involve manned aircraft overflights at Idaho National Laboratory (INL) in coordination with National & Homeland Security (N&HS) personnel. For the proposed testing activities, a system under test (SUT) will be located at the Water Reactor Research Test Facility (WRRTF) in a trailer staged on the asphalt near the Wireless Test Bed (WTB) service buildings. Only foot traffic will occur off of the asphalt area. Local power will be provided to the SUT. A backup generator will be available in case of loss of local power during over flights. An antenna on the roof of the trailer will be required. No guy wires or grounding rods will be necessary to complete this test.

The SUT testing also includes testing of data acquisition equipment. This testing will use a portable generator and two trailers with various power loads located at WRRTF staged on the asphalt near the WTB service buildings. Generator power will be used to power the two trailers. The SUT is portable and will be housed in a vehicle driven up to 5 Km from WRRTF on asphalt or T-roads with the SUT aimed at the WRRTF for data acquisition purposes. Operations will be conducted during both day and night.

For tests involving overflights, the manned aircraft will fly an oval from northwest to south east at altitudes between 500 and 15000 feet above ground level (AGL) over the WRRTF area. Aircraft will depart from Salt Lake City, Utah, perform overflights, and return to Salt Lake City to land. Take-offs and landings will not occur at INL or in Idaho Falls. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will be notified prior to all flights, as required, to coordinate airspace with governing agencies, local authorities, and INL Operations Management.

Flight restrictions around INL facilities and operational restrictions occurring within the Sage Brush Steppe Ecosystem Reserve and the Sage Grouse Conservation Area (SGCA) would be observed. Flights would be prohibited within 1 Km (vertical and horizontal) of a Sage Grouse Lek during breeding season.

The project will perform USQ screens and determinations as needed.

Project activities are expected to begin at the end of May 2017 and continue through the middle of June 2017.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Emissions are expected from portable electrical generators which will remain in place less than one year.

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

There is the potential for some impact to wildlife and habitat during the course of the proposed action. Sage grouse could be impacted by noise.

Generating and Managing Waste

Small amounts of industrial waste, in the form of common trash, are expected. All Solid Waste will be managed by WGS.

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 3.11 "Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components"

Justification: Project activities are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B 3.11 "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

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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: 5/22/2017