

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

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

SECTION B. Project Description

The Tribal DOE Program will continue to operate under the Cooperative Agreement No. DE-NE000587, which was negotiated between the Fort Hall Business Council and the Department of Energy-Idaho Office on December 18, 2012 for a 5-year period under the Agreement-In-Principle (AIP). The Tribal DOE AIP Program mission for FY2016 involves oversight and monitoring of DOE activities on the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), as well as providing information and awareness to the Fort Hall Community.

The Tribal/DOE Environmental Monitoring Program focuses on monitoring environmental impacts related to DOE/INL Operations. Monitoring activities include metals, Radionuclides, Transuranic Radionuclides, Petroleum Products, TCLP, Diesel Gasoline, Soil Gas Extraction, Ions, Volatile and fluoride concentrations. Sampling will occur along the DOE shipment transportation routes along I-15 and Union Pacific (UP) Corridors and co-sampling of water (Surface and ground) on the reservation and near the INL, and original territories and homelands off the reservation between INL and Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The primary objectives of these events are for deriving independent sample collection for quality assurance of data collected by federal and state agencies and determining baseline and background data of contaminants from the INL operations.

The Tribal/DOE Environmental Monitoring Program proposes 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. A sampling program with validated data will also require equipment for collecting soil, vegetation, milk, tissue, radionuclides, transuranic nuclides and water parameters. Additionally, a more representative sampling program will adequately address Legacy Contamination issues. As revealed by CERCLA documents, many of the legacy issues will spread spatially over time requiring continued monitoring. In addition to collecting field screening samples, a portable XRF instrument might be used to collect quantitative data about the concentrations of RCRA metals and other priority pollutant metals in soils in the field. Radiation survey instruments might also be used to measure radioactivity at the site.

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 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 Jack Depperschmidt, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on 08/22/2016