

# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

## Idaho National Laboratory

### SECTION A. Project Title: Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Site Inspection Visit

### SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

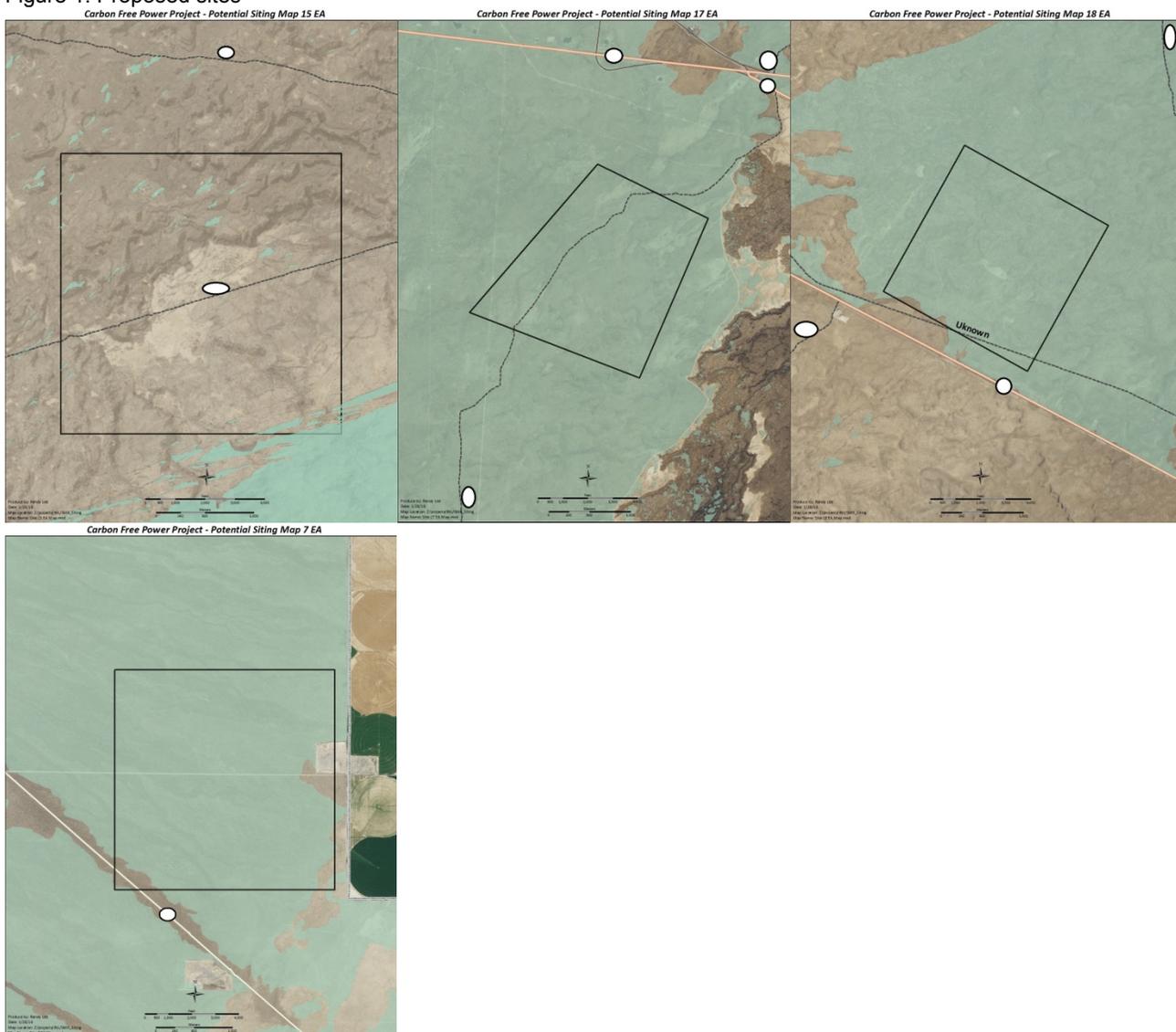
This Environmental Checklist (EC) covers several visits (between March and June) to four sites proposed as possible locations for siting a small modular reactor (SMR). The purpose of the visits is to: 1) establish corner boundaries (corner stakes/markers into or on top the ground), and 2) provide an on-site evaluation of site-specific parameters; such as, terrain, vegetation, access and rock outcrops.

Each of the four potential sites is shown, below. Each site ranges from 1000-2000 acres. The visits are expected to occur during the winter when the ground is covered in snow and possibly early spring. Transportation is expected to include a variety of tracked or wheeled vehicles, such as an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), side by side, snow cat, etc. Movement will primarily be along established T-roads or 2-track roads. Foot travel is also expected at each proposed location.

During the site visit corner posts will be driven into the ground and the Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates noted. Posts will be steel rebar or metal T-posts.

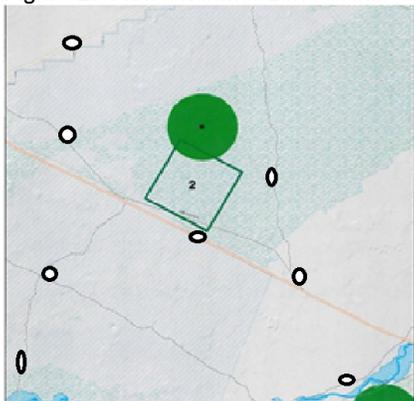
The site visits are expected to occur sometime between March and June 2016. Figure 1 shows proposed site locations.

Figure 1. Proposed sites



Part of the northwest portion of potential site 18 EA is within the 1-km buffer zone for a sage grouse lek (see Figure 2). All travel will be outside the 1-km lek buffer zone.

Figure 2. 1 km lek buffer zone at site 18 EA.



**SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:**

**Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources**

All travel will be outside the 1-km lek buffer zone so time-of-day travel restrictions would not be required between 15 March - 15 May. Breeding bird season begins 1 April.

**Releasing Contaminants**

Small spills of gasoline while refueling ATVs are possible. Spills will be cleaned up and reported in accordance with LWP-8000.

**Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources**

Project activities will use fossil fuels which will release greenhouse gas.

**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, B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring"

**Justification:** Project activities are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, 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 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

- a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing;
- b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools);
- c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells;
- d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment;
- e) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes);
- f) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams;

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- g) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources);
- h) Sampling of flora or fauna; and
- i) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

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: 3/14/2016