

# DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION Environmental Checklist

CX Posting No.: DOE-ID-INL-12-023

**SECTION A. Project Title:** Idaho Falls Power - Willow Creek Building (WCB) Conduit Installation

**SECTION B. Project Description:**

The purpose of this project is to provide the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) a communications pathway from the Willow Creek Building (WCB) northeast parking lot handhole to the handhole north of Research and Education Campus (REC)-617. INL and the City of Idaho Falls have an existing easement agreement that allows INL to place private telecommunications infrastructure in the City easement. Idaho Falls Power would provide and install a 1" conduit with pull rope for future INL use. Idaho Falls Power would provide and install a fiber patch panel, pull the fiber coiled in the WCB northeast parking lot handhole, and terminate and test the fiber to provide connectivity to the Idaho Falls city fiber infrastructure. This pathway would provide a communications pathway for future INL use and provide capabilities for INL to utilize Idaho Falls Power city fiber infrastructure.

The project is expected to start in October, 2012 and complete in November, 2012 at an estimated cost of approximately \$25K.

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

**Air Emissions:** Small amounts of fugitive dust may be encountered during this activity. This would be controlled using reasonable precautions such as application of water. If control methods are needed, the method used must be documented in daily logbooks for compliance with the INL Tier I Air Permit. Mobile/portable combustion engines not subject to air permitting for boring/pulling may be used during this activity.

**Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water:** No discharges to water would be made during this activity. Boring would be a minimum of four feet below the flow line of Willow Creek. The fiber optic cable installation must not disturb (e.g. involve excavating, filling, displacing soil, or discharging a pollutant) a water of the United States (including wetlands). Therefore, a permit from Idaho Department of Water Resources and the United States Army Corps of Engineers is not required. Idaho Falls Power would have the necessary agreements in place with the irrigation district to cross the creek east of WCB.

**Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources:** Cultural and Biological resources are not expected to be encountered during this activity. If objects of potential archaeological or historical significance (e.g., arrowheads, flints, bones, etc.) are encountered, the project would discontinue disturbance in the area and contact Environmental Support and Services [Jim Graham (6-7740), Jenifer Nordstrom (6-8119)] and/or the Cultural Resources Office [Brenda Pace (6-0916), Hollie Gilbert (6-2189), Julie Williams (6-0926)].

**Generating and Managing Waste:** No hazardous, radioactive, or nanoparticle waste is expected to be generated during this activity. Small amounts of industrial waste such as grease, oily rags may be generated. Excess soils/tailings not used as backfill would likely be disposed by Idaho Falls Power to a municipal landfill. All other waste would be disposed through Waste Generator Services (WGS) for disposal.

**Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources:** Small amounts of City-owned excess material (e.g., conduit, wire, metal, etc.) will be taken back by the City.

**SECTION D. Determine the Recommended Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s):** Identify the applicable Categorical Exclusion number (CX) from 10 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 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 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 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:** 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D item B4.7 "Fiber optic cable."

**Justification:** The proposed action is consistent with 10 CFR 1021 Subpart D, item B4.7 "Adding fiber optic cables to transmission facilities or burying fiber optic cable in existing powerline or pipeline rights-of-way. Covered actions may include associated vaults and pulling and tensioning sites outside of rights-of-way in nearby previously disturbed or developed areas."

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: 10/16/2012