

**SECTION A. Project Title: INL – Off-Road ATV Use In Support of Engineering Surveys**

**SECTION B. Project Description**

The proposed action will allow for off-road ATV use near T-24 and T-25 at the Idaho National Laboratory Site. The ATV(s) will be used to survey in support of engineering design for a proposed upgraded haul road within the INL Site.

Currently, an Environmental Assessment is being prepared to address upgrading either T-24 or T-25 to establish a site transportation route for the out-of-commerce shipment of materials and wastes from MFC to other site areas to reduce U.S. Highway 20 road closures, improve safety, and reduce cost.

Since off-road use of motorized vehicles is prohibited unless approval is obtained, this Environmental Checklist will document that approval. Several restrictions and guidelines will be implemented and are also documented in this EC.

- The driver will ensure the speed stays within 15 mph or less.
- The driver will not go anywhere other than where needed to support this action.
- The driver will leave the two-track road at random places and not repeatedly in the same place to avoid creating new roads.
- The driver will not intentionally spin the ATV's tires.
- The driver will not work off-road if the conditions are wet and muddy.

A subcontractor may perform some of the surveying activities. The restrictions and guidelines identified in this EC must be communicated to the performing subcontractor personnel.

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

**Chemical Use and Storage** – Fuels and petroleum products will be used in support of the proposed action. Project personnel will use non-hazardous chemical substitutes in place of hazardous chemicals as long as the non-hazardous substitutes meet the requirements/specifications of the requester. Spill prevention/minimization measures will be employed during storage and use of chemicals/fuels. Affirmative Procurement (MCP-1185) will be used as guidance in procuring applicable chemicals and materials.

**Cultural/Historical Resource Disturbance** – Both archaeological and Native American resources will be evaluated to address the road construction as stated in Environmental Checklist (ICP-10-003). ATVs cannot be used off-road until the evaluations are completed and the found sites identified and marked to ensure they are not impacted. To support the road upgrade, the cultural resource surveys will be 100 feet from the middle of T-24 on each side and 200 feet from the most southern guy wire along T-25.

However, a survey was performed in 2005 on T-24 for 20 meters on each side of the existing two track road. Sixteen cultural resource sites were identified. Once these sites have been relocated and identified with pin flags, ATVs can be used within 20 meters of T-24 avoiding the identified sites.

All vehicle travel will be restricted to existing roads and trails to prevent impact to cultural resources in unsurveyed areas. The Stop Work will be evoked immediately should unusual materials (i.e., bones, flakes of obsidian, "arrowheads" or other artifacts, rusty cans, etc.) be encountered. For additional information, contact Brenda Pace at 526-0916 or Hollie Gilbert at 526-2189.

**Interaction with Wildlife/Habitat** – Activities occurring off-road after May 1 have the potential to damage or destroy bird nests, eggs, and/or nestlings in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. ATVs cannot be used off-road until the area has been surveyed for nesting birds. However, prior to May 1, 2010, ATVs can be used along T-24 and T-25 as long as the driver adheres to the restrictions and guidelines identified in Section B.

Noxious weeds are known to occur in the project area. A revegetation and weed management plan for any areas where vegetation is damage should be developed and approved before the project begins. A revegetation plan should not be necessary unless the ATVs cause soil disturbance that removes vegetation.

Sage-grouse, pygmy rabbits and other sagebrush obligates are known to use the areas adjacent to the two road corridors. No Endangered Species Act listed species are known to occupy any of the project areas at this time.

**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

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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: 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, B3.1, Site characterization and environmental monitoring, (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, and radar), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, including the establishment of survey marks.

Justification: The off-road use of ATVs as described in Section B is in support of engineering surveys and mapping.

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 March 31, 2010