

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: ATR Radio Tower Replacement

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The radio tower at ATR located behind TRA-652 is a mobile radio tower unit that has a trailer for a base (with wheels) and outriggers for stabilization. Although it is a mobile base, the unit has been operating at ATR for several years. Electrical and data cables from the utility room on the second floor of TRA-652 provide power connectivity to the components.

The proposed project will replace the mobile radio tower with a permanent structure. The proposed structure is a 70-foot-tall monopole identical to the one currently at CFA-609. This structure comes with an "ice bridge," or a structure that supports the cabling going up the tower. The electrical and other cabling will be removed and reconnected to the new tower in approximately the same location behind TRA-652. The tower will require a new concrete footing that will be designed by Valmont, the radio tower manufacturer. A new transfer switch will be installed on the southeast corner of the building to allow a generator to supply power in case of outages.

During construction, the information management group will temporarily relocate the mobile tower to the north side of TRA-652. This will continue the service provided by the antennas.

Work includes excavating, concrete installation, electrical, hoisting and rigging, and tower assembly.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

This project has the potential to emit fugitive dust resulting from excavation work, along with combustion emissions associated with mobile engine use.

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

NA

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Cultural: A Section 106 review was completed under CRMO project number (BEA-23-H027) and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected. Please refer to the Cultural Resource Review (CRR) (BEA-23-H027) for details or Hold Points and Project Specific Instructions of the ECP.

Biological: There is the potential for this work to impact vegetation and for project personnel to interact with various wildlife species. A nesting bird survey of the project area and associated infrastructure must be completed by the appropriate PEL or environmental staff prior to the initiation of project activities to ensure there is no presence of bird nests protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Generating and Managing Waste

When wastes are generated, how they are disposed can adversely affect the environment. Managing wastes appropriately and responsibly and implementing recycling or reuse practices, where feasible, during project activities can reduce the potential impact on the environment.

Releasing Contaminants

When chemicals are used during the project there is the potential for spills that could impact the environment (air, water, soil).

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Project description indicates materials will need to be purchased or used that require sourcing materials from the environment. Being conscientious about the types of materials used could reduce the impact to our natural resources.

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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:

B1.19 "Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers"

Justification:

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and removal of microwave, radio communication, and meteorological towers and associated facilities, provided that the towers and associated facilities would not be in a governmentally designated scenic area (see B(4)(iv) of this appendix) unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate governmental entity.

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) Yes No

Approved by Jason L. Anderson, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 05/24/2023.