

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: USG 129 Wireless Testing

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Wireless Test Bed (WTB) USG 129 Customer has requested the use of the INL test range to perform radio frequency (RF) testing and research over a vast range of technologies. This research and testing will examine the various operational characteristics of fixed and mobile transceivers including the use of RF collection sensors and data recording devices.

Customer equipment is in the form of handheld, rack mount, manpack or vehicle mounted transceivers. The associated antennas range from small omni multiband antennas to directional mountable antennas. GPS antennas will be used to provide timing and are smaller than a baseball. Customer will transport general cleaning and maintenance chemicals to and from INL for use with their equipment. No waste products will be left at INL.

Existing INL facilities and infrastructure, paved roads and disturbed grounds will serve as the primary work location for those involved in the USG 129 effort. Road closures may occur for short durations (less than ½ hr). Appropriate steps will be taken to coordinate with the INL Fire Marshal and Security as required for access to INL T-roads. The effort is not anticipated to disturb the soil or associated foliage. Existing ground rods will be used when needed. Remote and portable WTB work locations will require temporarily placed restrooms; potable or wastewater utilities are not required. LEK review will be performed if events take place during LEK season.

All activities will take place at High Frequency Test Bed (HFTB), Central Facilities Area (CFA)-699, Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Runway and WTB Experimental Breeder Reactor (EBR)-1 cell site on paved roads, graveled roads, or paved/graveled parking areas as indicated by green highlights in the pictures below:

HFTB



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UAS Runway



EBR Cell Site



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SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Air emissions from portable electrical generators, in place less than one year, and from helicopters and other aircraft are exempt from permitting or monitoring requirements.

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

NA

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Cultural: Pursuant to the 2023 Programmatic Agreement, this federal undertaking is excluded from Section 106 review as the proposed activity has little to no potential to cause effects to historic properties.

Generating and Managing Waste

All chemicals and associated waste will be handled by the customer.

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

NA

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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:

B1.7 "Electronic Equipment"

B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects"

Justification:

B1.7 Electronic equipment. Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects. Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for small-scale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

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: 11/2/2023