CX Posting No.: DOE-ID-INL-24-106

SECTION A. Project Title: Taylor Bridge Replacement

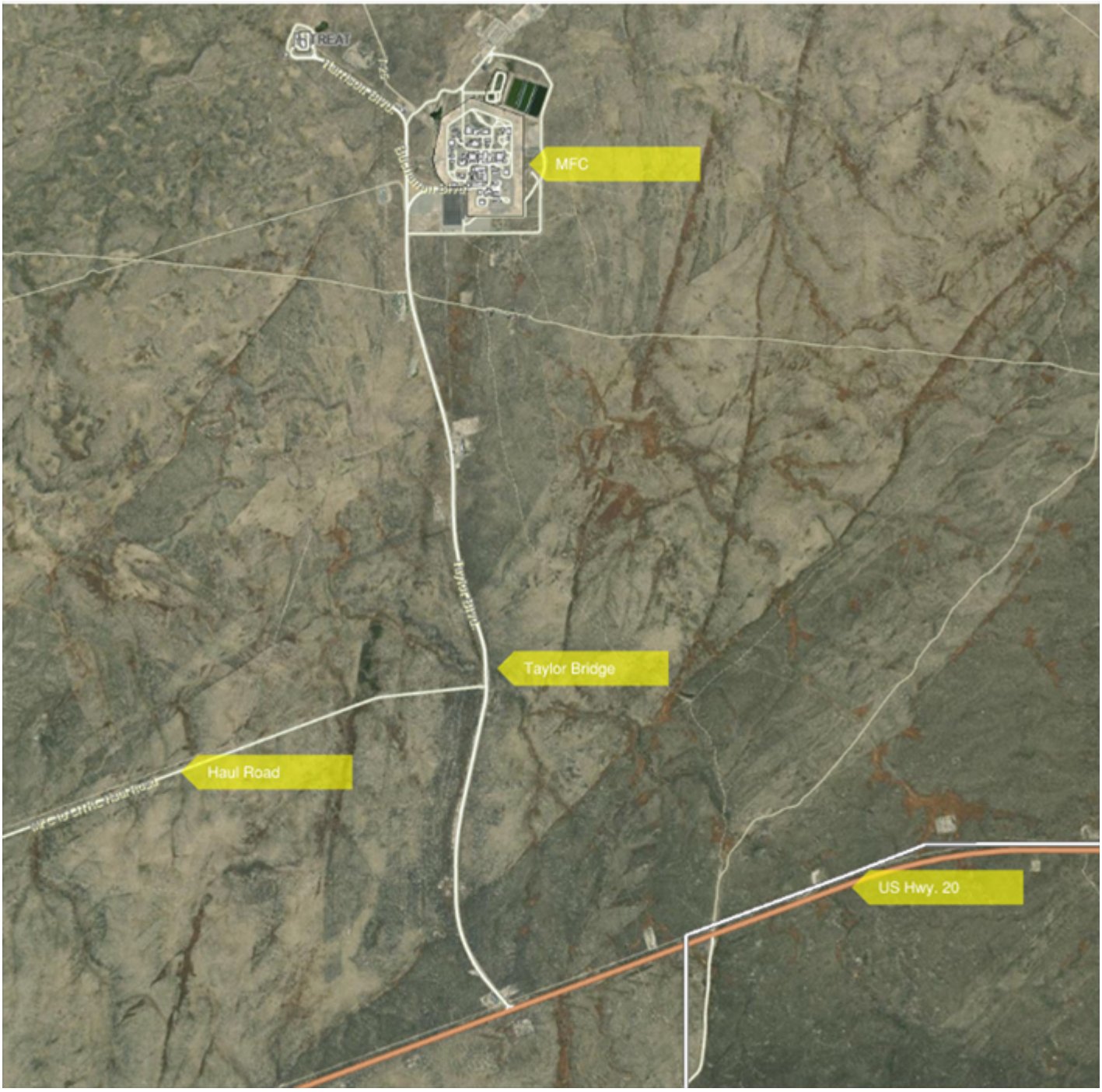
SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

Idaho National Laboratory (INL), a Department of Energy (DOE) laboratory, owns, operates, and maintains roads and bridges to support the INL multi-program mission. The Taylor Blvd. bridge is located South of the Materials and Fuels Complex (MFC) between US Highway 20 and the Gatehouse. The bridge was constructed in 1958 and recent bridge inspections have documented spalling and cracking of concrete in the abutments, wingwalls, and soffits. The bridge is also posted for emergency vehicle weight restriction. Due to the age, condition, and emergency vehicle restrictions, a bridge report prepared by Keller Associates (June 2024) recommends engineering of a replacement bridge to begin in the next budget cycle with full replacement planned in the next 2-3 years.

The scope of this project is to remove the existing Taylor Blvd. Bridge and replace it with a bridge having a similar design and layout. Replacement of the bridge will eliminate current emergency vehicle restrictions and mitigate the risk of further restrictions or closures due to deterioration of the existing structure. The new bridge will provide safe and reliable access to MFC and TREAT for employees, visitors, and deliveries. Replacement of the bridge will also require temporary construction of a bypass road and culvert system that can meet emergency vehicle weights as well as weights of commercial and internal shipments of equipment.

The expected time for completing the bridge construction is fiscal year (FY) 2026.

The Taylor Blvd. Bridge is located South of MFC between US Highway 20 and the MFC Badging Office and Gatehouse. The MFC to CITRIC haul Road is located just South of the bridge. The bridge carries traffic on Taylor Blvd. over the Taylor Drainage Channel. The roadway is not part of the Strategic Highway Corridor Network (STRAHNET) nor the National Highway System (NHS).



SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

This project has the potential to generate fugitive dust.

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

NA

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

There is the potential for this work to impact vegetation and for project personnel to interact with various wildlife species. A Biological Resource Review will be arranged within two weeks prior to the initiation of any activities that might disturb soil or vegetation and again following completion of project activities. A nesting bird survey is included with the Biological Resource Review for actions occurring between April 1 - October 1 per compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Bat surveys are also included with the Biological Resource Review in accordance with the INL Bat Protection Plan.

Cultural: A Section 106 review was completed under CRMO project number (BEA-25-014) and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected. Please refer to the Hold Points and Project Specific Instructions of the ECP.

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.

Environmental Justice

According to the CEQ Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, the INL site as well as the Research and Education Campus in Idaho Falls, ID are located in U.S. Census tracts that are identified as disadvantaged communities. Census tracts identified as disadvantaged meet or exceed socioeconomic, environmental, health, or demographic thresholds identified by CEQ. Given that activities analyzed in this document will happen within the boundaries of existing DOE/INL land and/or facilities where there are no permanent residents, any impacts to Environmental Justice in surrounding communities are anticipated to be negligible.

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: B1.13 "Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines"

Justification: Based on the purpose and need and description of the proposed action and potential environmental impacts, the proposed action fits within the class of actions that is listed in Appendix B CX B1.13. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)) and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Authorizing the proposed action will not (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive orders; (2) require siting of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; (4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources; or (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species.

B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines. Construction, acquisition, and relocation, consistent with applicable right-of-way conditions and approved land use or transportation improvement plans, of pedestrian walkways and trails, bicycle paths, small outdoor fitness areas, and short access roads and rail lines (such as branch and spur lines).

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

Approved by Robert Douglas Herzog, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 1/15/2025