

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION
Idaho National Laboratory

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CX Posting No.: DOE-ID-INL-25-008

SECTION A. Project Title: NHS Military Exercise

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

This Idaho National Laboratory (INL) project involves a military exercise that will take place at Central Facilities Area (CFA)-609, at the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) runway/facilities, Power Burst Facility (PBF-612) and/or PBF-613, and in the area shown in the attached map (Figure 1). UAS will be used in this evolution at all locations except CFA-609. The desert area within the 20 km circle will be traversed on foot (Figure 2). Wheeled vehicles will remain on well-established routes. Rotary aircraft may be flown and landed within the 20 km circle. Efforts will be made to land aircraft in disturbed areas (i.e., on a road) but cannot be guaranteed.

No waste will be generated in association with this project.

Figure 1: Exercise Area (15 km)

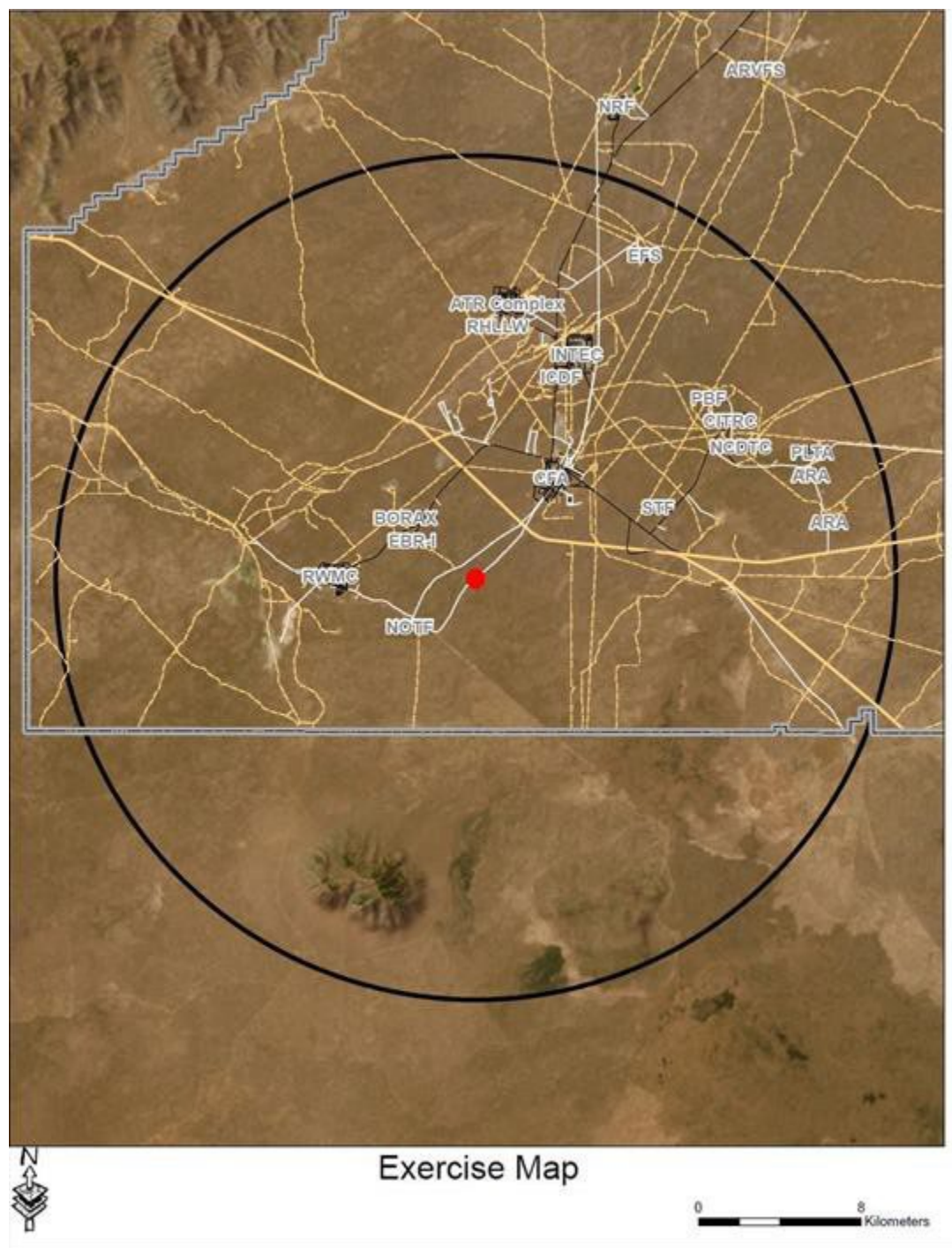
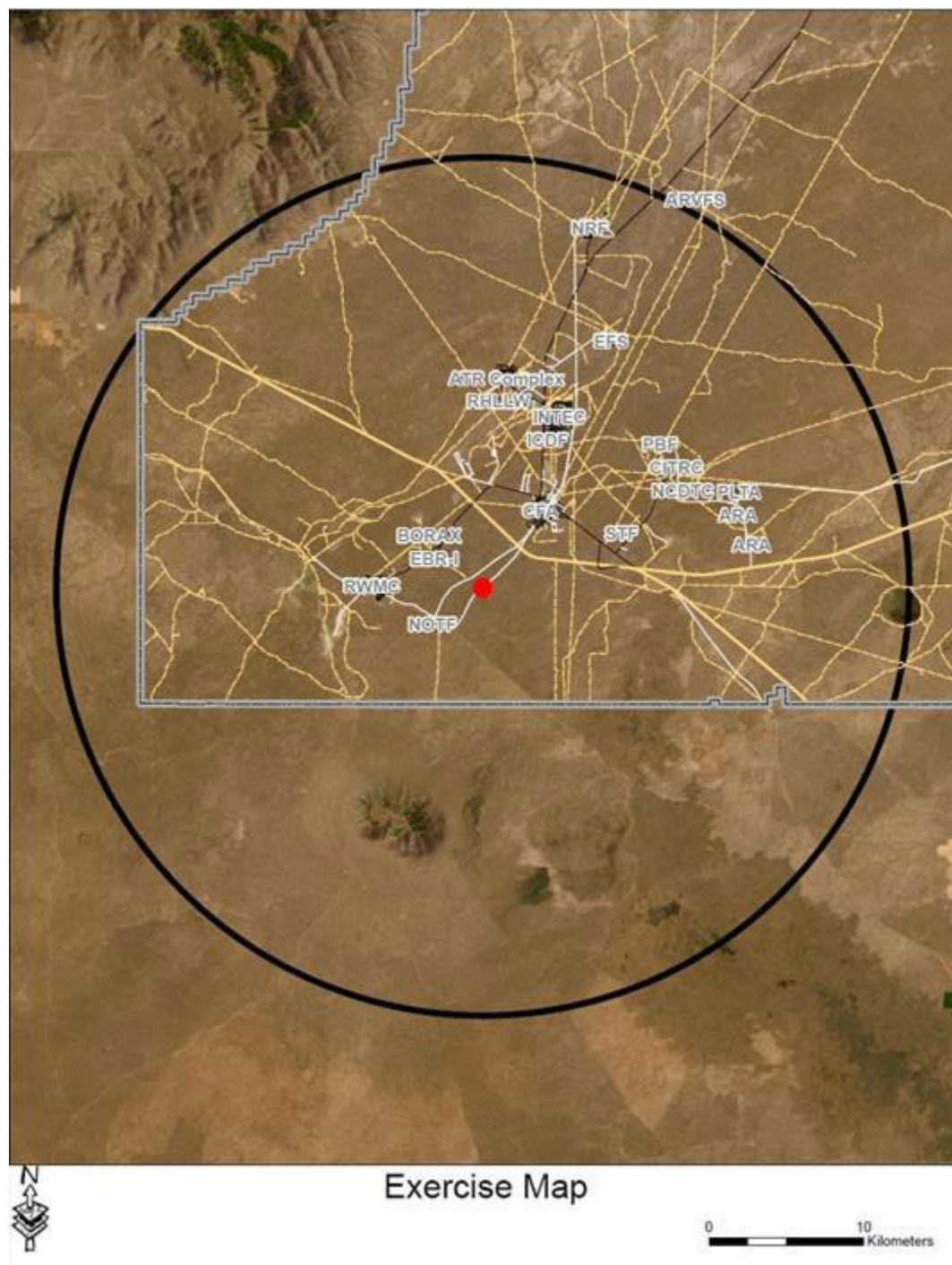


Figure 2: Location (20km) for all activities (helicopter landing and foot traffic)



SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

NA

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-25-037 and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected. Pursuant to the 2023 Programmatic Agreement, this federal undertaking is excluded from Section 106 project specific consultation and the proposed activity results in no historic properties affected.

Generating and Managing Waste

NA

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

Environmental Justice

NA

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: B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations", B3.2 "Aviation activities"

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 B1.2 and B3.2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (10 CFR 1021.410(b)(2)). The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion (10 CFR 1021.410(b)(3)). This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement (10 CFR 1021.410(b)(3)).

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.

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: 3/20/2025