

**DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION
Idaho National Laboratory**

SECTION A. Project Title: WTB USG #112

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

USG #112 has requested the use of INL and surrounding areas to conduct radio frequency (RF) testing and Research. The goal of this research and testing is to examine operational characteristics of point to point radio frequency links between test equipment at various test locations on and off the INL desert site. A variety of fixed and mobile transceivers will be placed under test with their predicted effects collected by sensors and data recording devices.

All environmental Aspects, Work Activities, Conditions and Requirements identified in this EC reflect the proposed scope of work. This effort does not require soil disturbances or the installation of ground-rods. Any anomalies shall be reported to the N&HS Program Environmental Lead. No fixed potable/wastewater utilities will be provided. Portable toilets will be temporarily placed at several field locations. All customer equipment will be returned to the customer, there will be no project excess or waste.

The customer shall be permitted to fuel generators with the use of safety glasses and nitrile gloves upon receiving a fueling safety brief. WTB personnel will be available to assist the customer test team with fueling and installation activities which require INL qualifications/certifications.

The INL Fire Marshal will be establishing requirements for mitigation and control of portable generator fire hazards, including but not limited to: defining buffer areas around any heat producing equipment (the transmitter/receiver and generator), no smoking, fire extinguisher(s), shovel, coms (radio/cell), allowing generators to cool prior to refueling, and placement of generators in secondary containments to prevent drips/spills. In some instances, mowing a fire break up to 30-ft in radius around the generators may be required. No sagebrush will be mowed under this EC.

Customer test locations fall on disturbed areas such as roadways or parking lots. Access to some test locations will include the use of INL T-roads. Access via T-roads will invoke coordination and approvals from INL Fire Marshal and Security. Various sensor/transmitter configurations will be tested using stationary and mobile units.

The customer vehicle will park at the test locations and deploy an antenna mounted to a camera tri-pod. The customer may use deep cell batteries and/or a portable generator to power their equipment while parked at the testing locations. In addition to a HF antenna, some locations may use a 1.2 meter satellite dish mounted in the back of a truck to maintaining a safe work environment.

Table 1 – Test Site Locations: (Not all locations will be used simultaneously, the customer test plan will dictate which sites are used and when)

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Antelope Canyon	43°43'20.71"N	113°32'28.08"W
ARA-632	43°31'30.44"N	112°49'37.56"W
Big Southern 1	43°23'46.83"N	113° 1'11.40"W
Big Southern 2	43°23'42.69"N	113° 1'28.41"W
Birch Creek 1	44° 3'42.80"N	112°51'55.98"W
Birch Creek 2	44° 4'55.42"N	112°52'36.91"W
Birch Creek 3	44° 5'50.46"N	112°52'37.96"W
Cell Site 6	43°32'0.09"N	112°49'48.53"W
CFA-699	43°31'55.72"N	112°56'42.96"W
CFA-1609	43°31'52.80"N	112°56'41.99"W
Crater Butte	43°35'41.56"N	113° 8'58.04"W
East Butte Floor	43°31'34.52"N	112°38'45.63"W
East Butte Top	43°30'2.67"N	112°39'55.83"W
EBR-1	43°31'14.96"N	112°59'57.86"W
Eightmile Canyon	44° 3'56.71"N	112°59'19.69"W
Four Corners	43°59'16.16"N	112°43'50.44"W
HFTB (M2)	43°31'18.22"N	112°53'50.26"W
Howe Peak	43°42'47.13"N	113° 6'0.28"W
Mound	43°30'6.28"N	113° 3'26.82"W
M1_27.1km	43°47'30.15"N	112°44'58.17"W

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M2_4.5km	43°32'37.56"N	112°56'39.83"W
M2_5.8km	43°30'20.84"N	112°49'44.80"W
Ramp at Railway	43°37'26.52"N	112°55'27.40"W
Rattle Snake Ridge 1	43°48'4.36"N	112°51'2.21"W
Rattle Snake Ridge 2	43°48'25.64"N	112°50'55.83"W
RTMF	43°33'14.10"N	112°52'32.76"W
SAF 1	43°30'55.68"N	112° 2'13.59"W
SAF 2	43°31'2.63"N	112° 2'11.12"W
Sand Dunes	43°56'31.71"N	111°59'17.22"W
STF	43°31'15.03"N	112°53'52.62"W
T17 Location 1	43°39'10.40"N	112°50'11.10"W
T17 Location 2	43°39'2.60"N	112°50'8.30"W
T17 Location 3	43°39'16.00"N	112°50'37.60"W
TAN Dial Room	43°50'49.87"N	112°42'8.12"W
TAN Fire Station	43°50'46.18"N	112°42'23.89"W
Telegraph Ridge	43°32'24.41"N	112°35'23.15"W
Upper 8-M Area	44°18'46.96"N	113° 1'8.02"W
Upper Howe Area	44°13'49.66"N	113°21'59.75"W
WRRTF	43°49'51.70"N	112°41'28.43"W

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Air emissions from portable electrical generators, in place less than one year, are not regulated.

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

N/A

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Project activities have the potential to impact biological and cultural resources.

Sagebrush disturbance is not anticipated. Mowing is prohibited unless approved by biological resources personnel and will be minimized to the extent possible. Snow removal from non-paved areas, other than the railroad ramp, may not proceed without written documentation from the Cultural Resource Management Office (CRMO).

Generating and Managing Waste

Activities will generate industrial waste (e.g., common office trash). All Solid Waste will be managed by WGS.

Releasing Contaminants

Typical construction chemicals such as fuels, lubricants, adhesives, paints, concrete, concrete cure, asphalt, refrigerants, etc., will be used and will be submitted to chemical inventory lists with associated Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for approval in the vendor data system prior to use. The Facility Chemical Coordinator will enter these chemicals into the INL Chemical Management Database. All chemicals will be managed in accordance with laboratory procedures. When dispositioning surplus chemicals, project personnel must contact the facility Chemical Coordinator for disposition instructions.

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Although not anticipated, there is a potential for spills when using chemicals or fueling equipment. In the event of a spill, notify facility Environmental Staff. If the facility Environmental Staff cannot be contacted, report the release to the Spill Notification Team (208-241-6400). Clean up the spill and turn over spill cleanup materials to WGS.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, and metal will be recycled to the extent practicable.

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:

10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, item B3.11 "Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components"

Justification:

The proposed action is consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D categorical exclusion B3.11, "Outdoor tests and experiments for the development, quality assurance, or reliability of materials and equipment (including, but not limited to, weapon system components) under controlled conditions. Covered actions include, but are not limited to, burn tests (such as tests of electric cable fire resistance or the combustion characteristics of fuels), impact tests (such as pneumatic ejector tests using earthen embankments or concrete slabs designated and routinely used for that purpose), or drop, puncture, water-immersion, or thermal tests. Covered actions would not involve source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials, except encapsulated sources manufactured to applicable standards that contain source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials may be used for nondestructive actions such as detector/ sensor development and testing and first responder field training."

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

Approved by Jason Sturm, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 11/16/2020