

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION
Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: INL Helicopter Training

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The proposed action would perform training exercises using two UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopters at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) desert site in late July 2015. Data collection would occur during aerial portions of the testing, and the aircraft would operate within a flight zone determined by INL. The proposed action would require multiple landings of the helicopters to deliver data to testing components on the ground and to adjust or refine data collection parameters. After landing, passengers onboard the helicopters would leave the vehicles to coordinate collected information with ground personnel. Project activities would occur between the hours of 1800 and 0200 (local time) and would involve approximately 10 landings per night with only one helicopter landing at a time; helicopters would not land simultaneously. Landings would occur only on the Haul Road or the T-25 Road. When not engaged in testing, the aircraft would be parked at Fanning Field in Idaho Falls.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Project activities may generate fugitive dust. If generation of fugitive dust is expected from project operations, reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the particulate from becoming airborne (Idaho Administrative Procedures Act [IDAPA] 58.01.01.650-651). All dust suppression activities will be documented in accordance with requirements in the INL Title V air permit. The date, location, time, and the type and amount of dust suppressant used will be documented in project files.

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Cultural and biological resource surveys are not required as long as landing occurs on existing roads (Haul Road and T-25 Road). Only foot traffic is allowed off-road.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

All materials would be reused and recycled where economically practicable. All applicable waste would be diverted from disposal in the landfill where conditions allow.

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, B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations"

Justification: Project activities are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations (including, but not limited to, firing-range training, small-scale and short-duration force-on-force exercises, emergency response training, fire fighter and rescue training, and decontamination and spill cleanup training) conducted under appropriately controlled conditions and in accordance with applicable requirements."

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

Approved by Jack Depperschmidt, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 7/22/2015