DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION
Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) Complex Landscaping

The proposed project will replace some of the existing landscape at ATR Complex with a more sustainable Xeriscape landscape. There will be four areas at ATR Complex that will be re-landscaped. Area #1 would be around building Test Reactor Area (TRA)-658 and near the front entrance area of ATR Complex. Area #2 would primarily be the grass area that runs from building TRA-658 north to Cod Street, Area #3 consists of areas around buildings TRA-649 and TRA-652, and Area #4 consists of the grass area to the southeast of building TRA-670.

A landscape subcontractor will design the changes and submit them to Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC (BEA) for review and approval. Once approved, the same subcontractor will complete the work. Some of the landscaping will include replacing grass with native plant landscaping, matting, and rock and converting the current sprinkler system to a more water conservative drip line.

Trees will not be removed without permission from Facility Management. The shallow injection well (35-TRA) near the southeast corner of TRA-652 and the inspection well southwest of TRA-649 will not be disturbed.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions - Fugitive dust may be generated while excavating for the xeriscape work. All reasonable precautions would be used to control fugitive particulate matter from becoming airborne. If dust control measures are required, the subcontractor would document the method used and frequency of application in their daily logbooks. Copies of these logbooks would be used to document compliance.

Generating and Managing Waste - Typical construction/landscape debris such as turf, rock, soil, sprinkler pipe/heads, etc., would be generated during the project. All waste would be characterized and disposed at the direction of Waste Generator Services (WGS).

Releasing Contaminants - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) site operable unit (OU) 02-13 is a no action site on the most southern side of the tree line to the west of TRA-649. Past activities in this area associated with these trees have required Radiological Control (RadCon) coverage. Additionally, work in the area along the ditch has identified previously unknown contamination. There would be no soil disturbance on the northwest corner of this site. The project would contact RadCon for instructions prior to disturbing ground in this area and along the tree line and ditch, and RadCon coverage may be required for work in this area. If radioactively contaminated soil is discovered, stop work and contact the CERCLA PEL. Typical landscaping chemicals such as fertilizer, pesticides, marking paint, etc., may be used during the project. All chemicals would be included on the subcontractors chemical inventory list and be tracked in the Comply Plus Chemical Management System by the Construction Chemical Coordinator.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources - This project is being developed to help Idaho National Laboratory (INL) meet major programmatic sustainability goals contained in Executive and Department of Energy (DOE) Orders and the Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan. This project would help INL move in the direction of reducing water usage. All materials would be reused and/or recycled where economically practicable and as accepted by the customer. All applicable waste would be diverted from disposal in the landfill where conditions allow. The project would practice sustainable acquisition, as appropriate and practicable, by procuring construction materials that are energy efficient, water efficient, are bio-based in content, environmentally preferable, non-ozone depleting, have recycled content, or are non-toxic or less-toxic alternatives (https://sftool.gov/green-products/0?agency=7).

SECTION D. Determine the Recommended Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s): 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 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 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 1508.27(b)(7)).

Justification: (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to, weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing

References: 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D item B5.1, "Actions to conserve energy or water"
fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix.

(b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) Have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

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: 12/16/2014