SECTION A. U.S. Highway 20 Turn Around

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

Site Utilities and Facility Operations (SUFO) are in need of a turn-around area on the north side of U.S. Highway 20 near the INL puzzle. This pull out "bulb" would provide a safe place for SUFO snowplows and equipment to pull off U.S. Highway 20 and thus avoid oncoming vehicles/traffic. The proposed project would expand an existing pull out located on the north side of U.S. Highway 20 (see figure 1.) in the Idaho Department of Transportation (IDT) right-of-way to an approximately 100' X 100' area. The turn-around would be a built up gravel pad that will match the existing pull out elevation.

Figure 1.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Fugitive dust may be generated when expanding the existing turn out.

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

N/A
Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Excavation for the new turn around area has the potential to disturb Cultural artifacts and will disturb existing vegetation.

Generating and Managing Waste

Non-hazardous wastes such as wood, scrap metal, RCRA empty marking paint cans, etc. may be generated during the project.

Releasing Contaminants

When chemicals are used during the project there is the potential for spills that could impact the environment (air, water, soil). Fuels, lubricants, marking paint, etc. will be used while constructing the turn around and in plows and equipment when conducting road maintenance activities. Spills from equipment are possible.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

N/A

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: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, Final Rule, 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, Categorical Exclusion B2.5 "Facility safety and environmental improvements" and B1.32 "Traffic flow adjustments".

Justification: The proposed activities are consistent with CX B2.5 "Safety and environmental improvements of a facility (including, but not limited to, replacement and upgrade of facility components) that do not result in a significant change in the expected useful life, design capacity, or function of the facility and during which operations may be suspended and then resumed. Improvements include, but are not limited to, replacement/upgrade of control valves, in-core monitoring devices, facility air filtration systems, or substation transformers or capacitors; addition of structural bracing to meet earthquake standards and/or sustain high wind loading; and replacement of aboveground or belowground tanks and related piping, provided that there is no evidence of leakage, based on testing in accordance with applicable requirements (such as 40 CFR 265, “Interim Status Standards for Owners and Operators of Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities” and 40 CFR 280, “Technical Standards and Corrective Action Requirements for Owners and Operators of Underground Storage Tanks”). These actions do not include rebuilding or modifying substantial portions of a facility (such as replacing a reactor vessel)” and B1.32 "Traffic flow adjustments to existing roads (including, but not limited to, stop sign or traffic light installation, adjusting direction of traffic flow, and adding turning lanes), and road adjustments (including, but not limited to, widening and realignment) that are within an existing right-of-way and consistent with approved land use or transportation improvement plans."

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: 9/10/2020