SECTION A. Project Title: INL Telecommunication Transport Services - ATR Complex

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Telecommunications Transport Infrastructure includes 220 miles of DOE-owned fiber backbone networks, 50 miles of leased fiber networks, and four Point of Presence dial rooms residing in buildings on the average of 50 years old. Due to the age of these dial rooms and a wide variety of other issues and limitations, INL would have difficulty funding and maintaining the infrastructure.

The most schedule and cost effective solution for INL’s future mission is to convert operation and management of existing telecommunication transport infrastructure to a purchased digital transport and communication integrated service where a service subcontractor (e.g. Syringa Wireless) provides transport and demarcation services to ensure connectivity at each of the primary campus locations. This service will provide mission-enabling, high quality, reliable, scalable and professionally managed telecommunication transport of data through state of the art infrastructure that will support critical research, while replacing rapidly aging data transport infrastructure at INL.

The proposed project will install a new pre-fabricated dial room at ATR Complex that Syringa Wireless will own and operate. The structure will sit to the west of TRA-620, east of TRA-1626 and south of Perch street (see Figure 1.). A gravel pad will be constructed where the building will sit, trenching will be required for running new fiber optic cable and to connect power to the new structure. This trenching will be determined during the design phase but would most likely tie into the closest adequate tie in point. A backup emergency generator that is also owned and operated by Syringa Wireless will be located at the building site.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

Fugitive dust may be created while excavating for the dial room pad, fiber line, and power line. All reasonable precautions will be taken to control fugitive dust.

Syringa Wireless will enter into an agreement with INL that allows them to own/operate their telecommunication network and equipment, including an emergency generator air emissions source. Syringa Wireless will be responsible for any pre-construction permits or permit exemption determinations, maintenance, operational requirements, recordkeeping or any other regulatory requirements associated with this emergency generator. INL would not have complete control over operation of this emergency generator and therefore emissions would not need to be included in INL’s FEC-PTC emissions.
Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water
N/A

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources
N/A

Generating and Managing Waste
Typical construction waste such as concrete, wood, RCRA empty marking paint cans, cardboard, scrap metal, wire, etc. may be generated on this project. Hazardous waste is not expected.

Releasing Contaminants
When chemicals are used during the project there is the potential for spills that could impact the environment (air, water, soil). Chemicals such as fuels, lubricants, paints, adhesives, sealants, etc. may be used during the project. Spills from these chemicals are possible.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources
Project description indicates materials will need to be purchased or used that require sourcing materials from the environment. Being conscientious about the types of materials used could reduce the impact to our natural resources. Scrap metal/wire may be generated during construction activities.

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:

Justification:
The proposed activities are consistent with CXs B1.15, “Siting, construction or modification, and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated and modular buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include, but are not limited to, those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (such as security posts); fire protection; small-scale fabrication (such as machine shop activities), assembly, and testing of non-nuclear equipment or components; and similar support purposes, but exclude facilities for nuclear weapons activities and waste storage activities, such as activities covered in B1.10, B1.29, B1.35, B2.6, B6.2, B6.4, B6.5, B6.6, and B6.10 of this appendix.

B1.24 “Transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in personal property (including, but not limited to, equipment and materials) or real property (including, but not limited to, permanent structures and land), provided that under reasonably foreseeable uses (1) there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment and (2) the covered actions would not have the potential to cause a significant change in impacts from before the transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests,” and

B4.7 “Adding fiber optic cables to transmission facilities or burying fiber optic cable in existing powerline or pipeline rights-of-way. Covered actions may include associated vaults and pulling and tensioning sites outside of rights-of-way in nearby previously disturbed or developed areas.”
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: 09/29/2020