

**NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM**

**I. Project Title:**

Engineered Rubble Pile for Training Exercises at the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Training and Education Facility

**II. Project Description and Location (including Time Period over which proposed action will occur and Project Dimensions - e.g., acres displaced/disturbed, excavation length/depth, area/location/number of buildings, etc.):**

The proposed action involves the installation of an engineered rubble pile to be used for training exercises at the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Training and Education Facility in the 600 Area of the Hanford Site. The rubble pile will consist of concrete columns and slabs, steel beams, underground vaults, metal and concrete culverts, and stacked conex boxes. The area required for the rubble pile will be roughly 400-feet by 400-feet and be contained within the original 80-acres approved for use by the HAMMER Facility. The project area will be cleared of vegetation and leveled. Excavations will be conducted to bury vaults for confined space training exercises. Excavation depths will not exceed 4-feet. Access to the project area will be through existing graveled/paved roadways, parking lots, and walkways to the south and east of the project area. The project area is approximately 3.7 acres in size and is located north of Sullivan Lane and south of the HAMMER Facility north fence line.

Mission Support Alliance (MSA) Environmental Compliance staff performed an ecological resources pedestrian survey of the project area on February 22, 2013 (ECR-2013-600-023). The project area is dominated by Sandberg's bluegrass and cheatgrass, with shrub cover provided by snowy buckwheat, big sagebrush, and a few scattered antelope bitterbrush and gray rabbitbrush. Total shrub cover is approximately 15-20% with most provided by snowy buckwheat and sagebrush. Most of the shrubs are concentrated in a patch near the center of the project area. The actual shrub community covers less than 0.25 acre. A significant amount of pocket gopher activity was observed, as well as signs of various mouse species and cottontail rabbit. White crowned sparrow and western meadowlark were observed.

No plant or animal species protected under the Endangered Species Act, candidates for such protection, or species listed by Washington State as threatened or endangered were observed in the vicinity of the project area. There is always the potential for birds to nest within the project area on the ground, on buildings, or on equipment. The nesting season is from mid-March to mid-July. The active nests (containing eggs or young) of migratory birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The MBTA makes it illegal for people to "take" migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. "Take" is defined in the MBTA to include by any means or in any manner, any attempt at hunting, pursuing, wounding, killing, possessing, or transporting any migratory bird, nest, egg, or part thereof. Personnel working in the project area will be instructed to watch for nesting birds. If any nesting birds (if not a nest, a pair of birds of the same species or a single bird that will not leave the area when disturbed) are encountered or suspected, or bird defensive behaviors (flying at workers, refusal to leave the area, strident vocalizations) are observed within the project area, an Ecological Resource Specialist will be contacted to evaluate the situation. No adverse ecological resource impacts are anticipated from the proposed action if these recommendations are followed.

A Cultural Resources Review (CRR) of the project area was conducted by the MSA Cultural and Historic Resources Program (HCRC-2013-600-023). The CRR included a literature review, geomorphologic review, GIS survey, and archaeological field work. An "Area of Potential Effect" (APE) notification was sent to the Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and regional Indian Tribes on February 21, 2013. The CRR was conducted on March 11, 2013, and did not identify any cultural resources or historic properties within the APE. A finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" was prepared and submitted to the SHPO and regional Indian Tribes for a 30-day comment period on March 27, 2013. The SHPO concurred with the findings of the CRR on March 27, 2013. The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (DOE/RL), provided a notice of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for this proposed action on May 1, 2013.

Although no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated, all workers will be directed to watch for cultural materials (bones, stone tools, mussel shell, cans, bottles) during all work activities. If any cultural materials are encountered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop until a Cultural Resources Specialist has been notified, the significance of the find assessed, appropriate Indian Tribes notified, and if necessary, arrangements made for mitigation of the find.

The proposed action is addressed by 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B1.15, "Support Buildings and Structures." This categorical exclusion covers the "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 education and training and similar support purposes."

This NEPA Review Screening Form is for application of an "activity-specific" categorical exclusion to a proposed action that is non-routine and non-recurring. Similar projects conducted in the future at the HAMMER Facility will require a separate NEPA determination and approval by the DOE-RL NEPA Compliance Officer.

**III. Reviews (if applicable):**

Biological Review Report #: ECR-2013-600-023; Letter MSA-1301886 dated May 6, 2013

Cultural Review Report #: HCRC-2013-600-023; Letter MSA-1301886 dated May 6, 2013

Additional Attachments:  
Conceptual diagram of engineered rubble pile; aerial photograph of project area at the HAMMER Facility

<b>IV. Existing NEPA Documentation</b>	YES	NO
Is the proposed action evaluated in a previous EA, EIS, or under CERCLA?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If "NO," proceed to Section V. If "YES," List EA, EIS, or CERCLA Document(s) Title and Number:  
Not Applicable

And then complete Section VI. Provide electronic copy of Initiator/ECO signed NRSF to DOE NCO for information only. DOE NCO signature is not required.

<b>V. Categorical Exclusion</b>	YES	NO
Does the proposed action fall within a class of actions that is listed in Appendixes A or B to Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the proposal connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts or result in cumulatively significant impacts (not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

List CX to be applied and complete Categorical Exclusion Integral Elements (where an action might fit within multiple CXs, use the CX that best fits the proposed action):  
10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B1.15, "Support Buildings and Structures"

<b>Categorical Exclusion Integral Elements</b>	YES	NO
Does the proposed action threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, or health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposed action require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposed action 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposed action adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposed action involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species such that the action is NOT contained or confined in a manner designed, operated, and conducted in accordance to applicable requirements to prevent unauthorized release into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If "NO" to all Categorical Exclusion Integral Elements questions above, complete Section VI, and provide to DOE NCO for final Approval/ Determination and signature in Section VII.

If "YES" to any of the Categorical Exclusion Integral Elements questions above, contact DOE NCO for additional NEPA Review.

NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (continued)

Document ID Number:

DOE/CX-00135

VI. Responsible Contractor Signatures

	Name (Printed)	Signature	Date
Initiator	Jerry W. Cammann, MSA NEPA-SME	<i>J.W. Cammann</i>	5/16/13
Cognizant Environmental Compliance Officer			

VII. Approval/Determination

DOE NEPA Compliance Officer: Clifford E. Clark, NCO

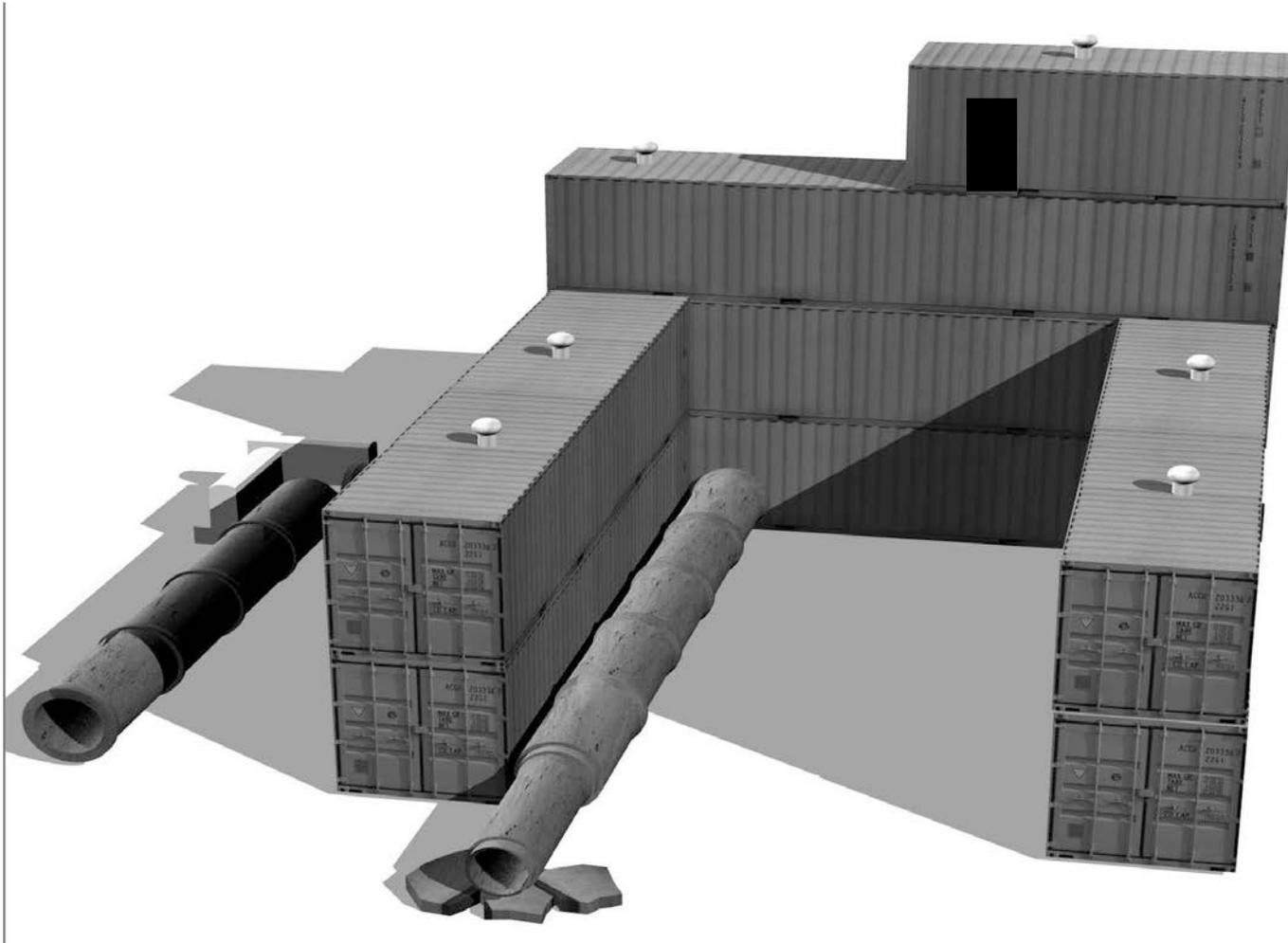
Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of action:

NCO Determination -  OX  EA  EIS

Signature: *Clifford E. Clark*

Date: 5/14/2013

CONCEPTUAL DIAGRAM OF ENGINEERED RUBBLE PILE



AERIAL VIEW OF PROPOSED LOCATION FOR ENGINEERED RUBBLE PILE AT THE HAMMER FACILITY

