



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#: NV-2021-001

Proposed Action Title: UXO Rocket Warhead

Program or Field Office: NNSA Nevada Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, NV

Proposed Action Description

Military and testing activities at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) over the past 60 years have resulted in unexploded ordnance (UXO) located in various areas at the NNSS and offsite locations. Items may include bombs, shells, grenades and munitions, Material Potentially Presenting an Explosives Hazard, and explosives of concern that did not function as designed or explode when they were deployed and therefore still may pose a risk of detonation. Hazards from UXO due to deterioration of the detonator and main charge may make the UXO more sensitive to disturbance and thus more dangerous to handle.

One 2.75-inch rocket warhead (2.3 pounds [lb] Composition B explosives) with an intact fuse (10 grams Tetryl Booster) has been identified by the Unexploded Ordnance Team (UXOT) in Area 18 on Buckboard Mesa Rd. The UXOT line pulled the warhead ~150 feet off the road to eliminate the risk of vehicle traffic impacting the warhead and causing a lethal explosion. Because the warhead is fused, the warhead is not in an explosive safe/stable condition to transport to the Explosives Ordnance Disposal Unit in Area 6.

For this project, the UXO mitigation strategy is to blow-in-place (to destroy the UXO in place at the incident location) the warhead using ~1.0 lb of C-4 explosives. The intent is to destroy the warhead and remove all explosives hazards that can impact environmental safety and health of the NNSS workforce. Implementation and execution of these UXO mitigation strategies would be conducted by qualified UXO Technicians and explosive safety experts. Any remaining non-hazardous materials would be collected and then disposed of in an approved NNSS landfill.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied

10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, B1.12 Detonation or burning of explosives or propellants after testing

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.

To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, DOE shall determine the following:

(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D;



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(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and

(3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, include the following conditions as integral elements of the classes of actions. To fit within the classes of actions in Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, 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 facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

NEPA Compliance Officer Determination

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under NNSA NAP 451.1 and DOE P 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action and I have reviewed the proposal for integral elements. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances present and that the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Carrie Stewart

Date Determined: 10/5/2020