



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#: NV-2020-026

Proposed Action Title: Mercury Cattle Guard Communications Mast

Program or Field Office: Nevada National Security Site

Location(s) (City/County/State): Mercury, NV

Proposed Action Description

This proposed project in Area 22 of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) would install a 25-foot-high x 14-inch-wide Communication Mast that would house a camera and a microwave antenna. The mast would be located at the Mercury cattle guard off of Mercury Highway and U.S. Highway 95. It would be used by the NNSS Operations Command Center and the Contractor Protective Force (SOC) to monitor activities at the NNSS property line.

Specifically, the proposed project site is an existing dirt lot east of Mercury Highway and north of the cattle guard near U.S. Highway 95. This lot occupies roughly 80 x 80 yards of disturbed area alongside Mercury Highway. Underground power would run through a 50-foot long x 2-foot 6-inch deep x 1-foot 8-inch wide trench from an existing power panel to the Communication Mast. A 8-foot 6-inch deep x 2-foot 6-inch wide borehole would be bored for a rebar cage, concrete foundation and anchor bolts to support the Communication Mast.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied

10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

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;
- (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



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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: 07/28/2020