

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

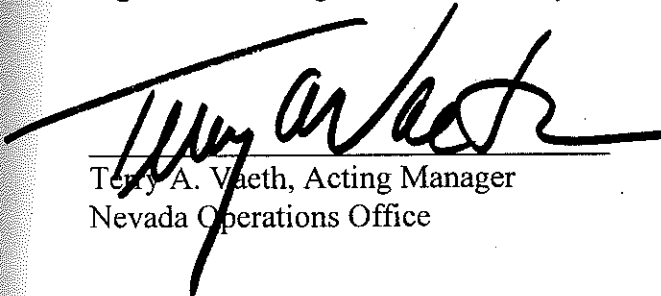
**LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT
AT THE NEVADA TEST SITE, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA**

The United States Department of Energy has prepared an Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1115) (EA) which analyzes the potential environmental effects of treating at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) low level radioactive liquid waste and low level mixed liquid waste generated primarily by DOE Environmental Restoration activities in the state of Nevada. The EA evaluates the potential impacts of constructing a liquid waste treatment system (LWTS) in Area 6 at the NTS, Nye County, Nevada. Three alternative actions are also evaluated: 1) Construction of a facility to treat only low-level mixed wastes while treating low-level radioactive wastes at project drill sites, 2) temporary storage of low-level mixed wastes at the Area 5 transuranic waste (TRU) pad while treating low-level radioactive wastes at project drill sites, and 3) taking no action. The purpose and need for treating the liquid wastes is found in Section 1.0 of the EA. A detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives is in Section 2.0. Section 3.0 describes the affected environment and Section 4.0 the environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives. Health and transportation effects, accident scenarios, cumulative effects, and other relevant information are found in Sections 5.0 through 13.0 of the EA.

DOE determined that the alternative action of transporting low-level mixed wastes to the TRU pad while retaining low-level radioactive wastes at project drill sites would best meet the needs of the agency.

FINDING: Based on the information and analyses in the EA, DOE finds that neither the proposed action nor any of the alternatives would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Thus, an environmental impact statement is not required.

Signed in Las Vegas, Nevada, this 13th day of February, 1997.


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Nevada Operations Office