

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

**AREA 5 RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT SITE (RWMS)
ACCESS IMPROVEMENT
AT THE NEVADA TEST SITE (NTS)**

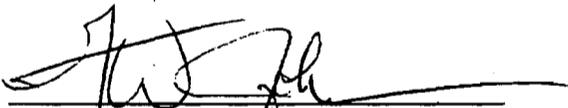
The United States Department of Energy has prepared an Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1170) (EA) which analyzes the potential environmental effects of improving access to its Area 5 RWMS at the NTS. The EA evaluates the potential impacts of constructing an extension of the Cane Springs Road between Mercury Highway and the 5-01 Road. Three alternative actions are also evaluated: (1) Construction of a new road along the existing alignment of the Powerline Road between Mercury Highway and the 5-01 Road, (2) upgrading the existing 5-01 Road, and (3) taking no action. The purpose and need for improving access to the RWMS are addressed 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 12.0 of the EA.

DOE determined that the alternative action of upgrading the existing 5-01 Road 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 21st day of NOVEMBER, 1997.



G. W. Johnson, Manager
Nevada Operations Office