



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#: NV-2025-003

Proposed Action Title: Geotechnical Investigations

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description

Geotechnical investigations would be conducted at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), North Las Vegas Facility (NLVF) and RSL-Nellis (RSL-N) to collect information for siting, designing, and constructing new facilities or structures. Geotechnical investigations would include borehole drilling and sampling of soil cores, excavation and sampling of test pits, and in situ testing (e.g., electrical/thermal resistivity) using various methods within the project area. Soil borings would be limited to up to 50-ft in depth and would not require any ground level disturbance beyond the boring method; no drill pads would be constructed. Test pits would be excavated using a rubber-wheeled backhoe, excavator, or similar equipment to collect soil samples. Test pit depth would range from a minimum of 2 feet (ft) below ground surface (bgs) to a maximum of 15 ft bgs.

This NEPA checklist only applies to geotechnical investigation activities designed in conformance with applicable requirements and for which best management practices are used to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Locations would be accessed using established roads (two track or improved) as much as possible. Off-road driving may be required; however, no new roads would be constructed to access investigation locations. Land would not require vegetation clearing or grading and investigation locations would be sited to avoid biological and cultural resources. Details of each investigation (e.g., number and location of boreholes and test pits) and all off-road travel routes, including overland driving to access locations, would be planned in advance and would require biological and cultural resources review prior to the start of work.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied

10 CFR 1021: Appendix B, B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical



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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 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



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the definition of a categorical exclusion. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Patricia Gallo

Date Determined: January 27, 2025