



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: Solar Photovoltaic Expansion Project

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

The Mercury Solar Expansion Project would install a solar photovoltaic (PV) array on the south side of Mercury Fire Station No. 1 in Area 23 (Mercury) at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Renewable energy generation at the NNSS supports strategic objectives for site modernization and enables the NNSS to meet sustainability goals.

The proposed PV system would be located directly south of the Mercury Fire Station, Building 23-640 in a previously disturbed area comprising approximately 73,000 square feet (1.7 acres), which would allow for construction activities and material staging. Installation of the solar panels would require the following activities:

- Removal and disposal of debris
- Grading the solar array plot area
- Spraying herbicide on the solar array plot area

Structural Activities:

- Installing support pylons for the solar panels

Power Activities:

- Digging a trench approximately 2 feet (ft) wide by 3 ft deep for installation of conduits and power conductors around the perimeter of the solar zone
- Laying conduit
- Installing power conductors
- Installation of inverter boxes and associated power equipment
- Tying new conductors into existing and/or new transformers and power infrastructure
- Interfacing with solar panels
- Installing panels
- Using the existing driveway and bladed road

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR 1021: B5.16 Solar photovoltaic system

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. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action and that other-regulatory requirements set forth above are met. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Carrie Stewart

Date Determined: January 25, 2018