



National Nuclear Security Administration

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: WSI ESS Training (NV-2013-012)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

WSI security personnel would patrol the area during Force-on-force or training exercises to protect simulated Special Nuclear Material (SNM). Exercises would take place at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Patrols/training may occur around one or more of the three facilities as depicted in the attached map, as well as at the Area 23 Training Academy. The training is meant to realistically test, evaluate, and verify the effectiveness of Protective Force programs; provide skills application training for personnel, validate implemented improvements, and motivate personnel to perform duties in a proficient and safe manner. Engagement Simulation System (ESS) training is conducted with regard for the safety and health of personnel, protection of the environment, and protection of government property. Safety issues are considered from the inception to completion of training. DOE directives require that DOE and DOE contractor personnel meet safety standards and requirements prior to conducting training involving ESS equipment and/or other types of firearms simulators.

ESS training may consist of one or more preplanned adversary/defender team scenarios where team members are equipped with a variety of firearms modified for use with blank ammunition and ESS equipment. During some scenarios, pyrotechnic devices may be used to provide a more realistic training environment. Inter-team and intra-team communications equipment is provided as required. All ESS training would be controlled and supervised by a controller(s) assigned to each major element.

Tortoise and cultural surveys would be requested in advance of the activity, in the area of the proposed activity.

The entire area marked would not be used, only a portion of it per activity. Activity might include foot and/or vehicle use on existing dirt roads and off-road as need to accomplish the objective.

Training might take place at least quarterly; more often as needed.

This Checklist is being revised in August, 2014 to include the following:

- Additional locations, including the Area 6 Tumbleweed Test Range, DAF and RNCTEC (map attached)
- Petroleum/Fuel Storage/Use (See Environmental Considerations)
- Diesel generators (See Environmental Considerations)
- Possible cultural/historic resource areas (See Environmental Considerations)

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10CFR1021 - Subpart D: 81 .2 Training exercises and simulations

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions including the full text of each categorical exclusion, sec Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (Sec full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CPR 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: Linda Cohn

Date Determined: 8/05/2014