



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: Lightning Protection for Explosives Safety Ground Well Install (NV-2014-013)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

This project occurs at the NNSS in Area 6 at the OAF. Seven ground wells would be installed at 100' intervals extending east from the Entry Guard Station at OAF. The ground "wells" (ground rods) would be used as the reference resistance measurement that is required for determining overall OAF lightning protection system functionality, and these ground wells would be tied into the Entry Guard Station (06-605) ground grid. The term "explosive safety" refers to the portion of the lightning protection system that is currently needed to meet OAF explosive safety requirements.

A cable and seven grounding rods would be installed from the EGS extending 700 feet east across the parking lot and into the desert towards the OAF leach field. A trench would parallel and run south of the current road to the sewage lagoons. The trench would be dug using a backhoe attached with a small bucket. The trench would be about 1-2 feet deep and about 10 inches wide. At every 100 foot mark a hole would be bored 10 feet down and a copper rod inserted. All the copper rods would be connected to cabling inside PVC pipe going back to the EGS. Trenches and holes would be back filled. Excavation of the trench would be a coordinated effort between the laborers, operator and the wiremen to minimize open trenches. The plan is to have the operator open the trench, the laborers clean immediately behind the equipment and the wiremen putting together and placing the conduit as it opens up. The laborers would then immediately backfill the trench covering the conduit. They would leapfrog this process until the job is complete and then begin soil compaction. The section of asphalt to be removed could be patched at that time and if the work can be coordinated and the material on hand, whether cold patch or hot asphalt is to be used.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

Part 1021, B-2.3 - personnel safety and health equipment

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: Linda Cohn

Date Determined: 3/18/2014