



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: MAGPIE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (NV-2014-034)

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 would involve operation of the Magpie small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) in Class G airspace at, or below 1,500 feet Above Ground Level (AGL), at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in the vicinity of Desert Rock Airport, NV. The purpose of the project would be to demonstrate the platform, systems, and capabilities.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) designated the State of Nevada as one of six test sites for drone testing. Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems (NIAS) is a state sanctioned organization formed to promote the unmanned systems industry in Nevada by researching, developing, and testing the latest in unmanned aerial system technologies. The Magpie sUAS is hand-launchable and skid-recoverable for simple operations and quick-turn flight plans.

The Magpie Demonstration Project provides a demonstration opportunity under a Work for Others (WFO) contract model. Mission objectives are:

- Demonstrate the platform, systems and capabilities
 - Launch and land the Magpie in the National Airspace System (NAS) from Desert Rock Airport (ORA)
 - Validate checklist and Memorandums of Understanding agreements between NSTec, Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems (NIAS) and Nellis Air Traffic Control Facility (NATCF) as applicable.
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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

Part 1021 - B-3.6 - Small-scale research and development

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: 9/22/2014