



# National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

---

Proposed Action Title: Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Flight Operation (NV-2016-009)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

---

Proposed Action Description:

The Remote Sensing Laboratory, located at Nellis Air Force Base in North Las Vegas, NV (RSLN), provides support for various activities using unmanned aircraft (UAS), small unmanned aircraft (sUAS), and helicopters. These exercises are essential for training and other purposes, including but not limited to conducting aerial surveys, low-altitude mapping, and demonstrations. Activities would take place in various areas at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), Area 22 Desert Rock Airport, and at the North Las Vegas and Boulder City airports.

sUAV Training: Typical training exercises would consist of ground school and flight training that starts at either the Boulder City or North Las Vegas airports using a smaller, less expensive model-aircraft type UAS. Pilots and Mechanics would have continuing training on the UAVs and may go to other locations including but not limited to Desert Rock, Boulder City, North Las Vegas, and RSLN.

Aerial Surveys and Demonstrations: UAVs are excellent for conducting low-altitude surveys for the RSLN Aerial Measuring Systems organization mission. Therefore, there may be times that approved detection units would be within the sUAS as it flies over radioactive sources stations on the ground, for survey purposes. Parking would always be in approved parking lots. If needed, tents and/or leased motor homes with toilet facilities and water capabilities would be placed at locations. Locations would be reviewed to determine the appropriate actions and material needed prior to going to the location. Generators might be needed on a temporary basis to ensure air conditioning units and other equipment could be operational within a tent.

---

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR 1021 – B3.2 – Aviation Activities

---

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: 1/13/2016