



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Explosives Disposition: Dog Compound (NEPA Checklist #NV-2016-013)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

Military and testing activities at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) over the past fifty or sixty years have resulted in unexploded ordnance (UXO) located in various areas at the NNSS and off-site locations. UXO may include items such as but not limited to bombs, shells, grenades and munitions, Material Potentially Presenting an Explosives Hazard (MPPEH), and matters presenting an explosives concern that did not function as designed or explode when they were employed, or still contain explosives and pose a risk of detonation. UXO poses a hazard due to deterioration of the detonator and main charge, which makes the UXO more sensitive to disturbance and thus more dangerous to handle.

At the Dog Compound in Area 27, near the JASPER facility, there are approximately 400 very old electric blasting caps lying out in the desert. Some are in a box and some have been scattered, possibly by animals, in the vicinity of the box. Because their age has made them too unstable to safely move, plans are to render safe the incident locations by destroying them in place using the explosives applications described below:

The Explosives Actuated Fire Suppression System (EAFSS) is a sub-component of the Blow in Place (BIP) method; the explosives used to actuate the EAFSS are the same explosives used to BIP and destroy the electric blasting caps rendering safe the incident location. The EAFSS uses agents such as water foam and dry chemical used in firefighting to mitigate fire potential. Using hand tools, a shallow trench would be excavated to prepare the blasting caps for destruction. The excavation would also provide structure for emplacement of sandbags, water foam and dry chemical revetments to mitigate shockwave, fragmentation, and firebrands.

Industry standard shock tube, shock tube initiation systems, and commercial high explosives would be used as the explosives application to actuate the EAFSS, destroy the electric blasting caps, and render safe the incident location. Implementation and execution of these explosives operations would be conducted by qualified UXO Technicians and explosive safety experts. Any remaining non-hazardous materials resulting from the render safe operation would be gathered and then disposed of in an approved NNSS landfill.

The electric blasting caps are located in a previously disturbed area that was used to support blasting operations in the past.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR 1021: B6.1 Cleanup Actions – Small scale, short-term cleanup actions under RCRA, Atomic Energy Act, or other authorities, less than approximately 10 million dollars in cost, to reduce risk to human health or the environment

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: 3/2/2016