



# National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

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Proposed Action Title: Mercury Power & Communications Infrastructure Consolidation and Upgrades (NV-2017-056)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

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Proposed Action Description:

The M&O contractor for the National Nuclear Security Site (NNSS), is preparing to modernize failing utility infrastructure critical to operability of Mercury at the NNSS. Existing infrastructure systems in Mercury were installed in the 1950s and 1960s and have been in continual use for more than 50 years with minimal maintenance or modernization. Upgrades are required to sustain the daily resident Mercury workforce supporting sitewide mission operations. Utility modernization mitigates risks associated with potential failures that would render facilities inoperable, enhances safety through the repair and replacement of aged, unreliable equipment, improves the efficiency of the infrastructure in Mercury, and upgrades power and communications infrastructure.

Power and communications lines would be rerouted and consolidated to bypass segments that are no longer needed. Upgraded power and communication lines would run above ground along Greenhouse Avenue, Buster Street, Sandstone Avenue, Jangle Street, and Ranger Avenue.

Activities would include:

- Rerouting and consolidating lines,
- Installing five new wood poles,
- Installing equipment boxes and pole mounted fixtures,
- Installing a communications cabinet,
- Constructing an underground circuit vault, and
- Adding new conductor lines on existing poles.

Utilities that would be taken out of service or bypassed would be left in place pending approval of future demolition activities, with the exception of some conductor lines that may be disconnected and taken down in consideration of potential safety issues.

Pole replacement activities would involve digging holes to install five new poles 6 feet deep along the existing alignment. Two poles would be installed along Jangle Street, one would be installed at the corner of Jangle Street and Ranger Avenue, and two poles would be installed on Ranger Avenue. The new poles would have sufficient height to hold both power and communication lines and would carry typical cross arms and insulators to support conductor wires. Equipment used to install the poles and rehang wires would be on paved or previously disturbed ground surfaces. Removing the existing poles is not part of the activity. The pad-mounted communications box would be installed on the east side of Jangle Street. The communications box is stainless steel and measures approximately 4 feet tall by 3 feet wide and 1.5 foot deep. It is similar to other communications boxes in Mercury. The underground electrical 12-kilovolt, single circuit vault would be installed off the southwest corner of Building 23-301 along Ranger Avenue. The vault would measure approximately 9 feet wide by 7 feet deep and extend 4 feet below grade. The vault would have a steel cover.

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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR 1021: B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities & B4.12 Construction of power lines

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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.