



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: Engagement Simulation System (ESS) Training (NV-2018-001)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

Various Force-on-Force and Engagement Simulation System (ESS) training exercises for Nevada Field Office (NFO) security personnel would take place at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). NFO security personnel would patrol designated areas to protect simulated Special Nuclear Material (SNM).

Patrols/training would occur at several NNSS locations:

- Area 1 U1A Complex
- Area 5 Burma Road, Radiological Nuclear Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Complex (RNCTEC)
- Area 6 Tumbleweed Range, Device Assembly (DAF)
- Area 7 Ice Cap
- Area 22 Desert Rock Airport
- Area 23 adjacent to the Training Academy located in Mercury

Other locations would include portions of Areas 2, 4, 12 and 27.

The training is meant to realistically test, evaluate, and verify the effectiveness of Protective Force programs; provide skills application training for personnel, validate implemented improvements, and motivate personnel to perform duties in a proficient and safe manner. ESS training is conducted with regard for the safety and health of personnel, protection of the environment, and protection of government property. Safety issues are considered from the inception to completion of training. DOE directives require that DOE and DOE contractor personnel meet safety standards and requirements prior to conducting training involving ESS equipment and/or other types of firearms simulators.

ESS training may consist of one or more preplanned adversary/defender team scenarios in which team members are equipped with a variety of firearms modified for use with blank ammunition and ESS equipment. During some scenarios, pyrotechnic devices may be used to provide a more realistic training environment. Inter-team and intra-team communications equipment is provided as required. At Burma Road, exercises would consist of adversary activities involving vehicles to include a tractor-trailer and various tactical and non-tactical vehicles. The exercises would be conducted on the asphalt road surfaces and 1/3 mile on each side of the road. All ESS training would be controlled and supervised by a controller(s) assigned to each major element.

Activities might include foot and/or vehicle use on existing dirt roads and off-road as needed to accomplish the objective. Training might take place at least quarterly; more often as needed.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied: 10 CFR 1021, B1.2 Training exercises and simulations

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: October 4, 2017