



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: DAF-18 Full Scale Exercise

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

An emergency response exercise would be conducted at the Device Assembly Facility (DAF), located in Area 6 of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). The purpose of this exercise would be to evaluate the ability of the NNSS Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT) to recognize, respond to and mitigate an emergency in accordance with appropriate procedures and plans. The RERT consists of Radiological Control Technicians and a supervisor that travel to the boundaries of a calculated consequence assessment plume model to survey and validate the plume model. The exercise would be similar in nature to previous drills and exercises conducted by the NNSS Emergency Response Organization (ERO), which have included emergencies that have the potential to release hazardous and/or radioactive materials.

The DAF-18 Full Scale Exercise would take place on December 7, 2017, or possibly later due to inclement weather or other unforeseen events. RERT participants would be notified of a plume of "radioactive" material (Note: The plume would be simulated and no radioactive sealed sources would be used). The plume would extend roughly from the DAF, northeast through Yucca Lake and would terminate in Area 6. RERT participants would survey the area within the plume to determine the location of the simulated release. Probes would be used—these are pre-determined Global Positioning System (GPS) locations that the consequence assessment team would use to show the RERT where to survey. No surface disturbances would occur as a result of assigning the probe locations. When the consequence assessment marks a "probe", the computer provides a latitude/longitude GPS coordinate for the RERT to go to and survey (the "probes" are just random survey points on the map, not for any specific release points). Survey results would be relayed to the consequence assessment team for plume validation.

Note: Vehicles would travel on existing paved/gravel roads to different survey points (probes). No actual "offroad" vehicle travel would take place. The vehicles would travel on existing roads to the closest location to the survey point, then the workers would travel by foot to the survey point location.

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: 12/05/2017