



# National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

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Proposed Action Title: Mercury Water & Sewer Utility Discovery

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:

As part of planning activities for future water and sewer line upgrades, subsurface utility discovery work would be performed along selected portions of the existing sewer and water lines located in Area 23 (Mercury) at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). This work is required to ensure that the composition and depth of the current lines are known in advance of the upgrade work. The discovery work would consist of small excavations (e.g., potholing) performed at locations where the future lines would cross existing lines. The excavation depth would be based on the depth of the lines of interest, but would typically be 3 to 5 feet deep. The excavations would typically be no larger than 5 feet square and would be performed either with hand tools or a hydro excavator. Water would be pressurized and injected into the ground through a handheld wand to safely wash soil from the underground area. The resulting slurry would be vacuumed from the excavation through a large debris hose connected to a debris tank. Since it is a non-destructive process, hydro excavation eliminates the risk of damage to buried cables and pipes. Using hydro excavation enables the location, type, and depth of the utility to be accurately established. No utility lines would be damaged during the discovery activities and the excavations would be backfilled after the lines in question were observed, photographed, and mapped. Photography would be conducted by Desert Research Institute (DRI) staff to gather information to be used for the historical evaluation of the Mercury utilities.

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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR 1021, B3.1 Site Characterization and environmental monitoring

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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.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Carrie Stewart

Date Determined: 12/20/2017