

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
 NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION NEVADA FIELD OFFICE  
 NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST**

**NV-2017-031**

FOLLOW ATTACHED PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETING CHECKLIST				Date <b>March 8, 2017</b>			
A. Project/Activity Title (Attach a brief description of proposed project)				Anticipated Start Date <b>Mid-September 2017</b>			
<b>Telephone Pole Grading Project</b>							
Project Location <b>NNSS, Various Areas</b>			Proposed By (if other than NNSA/NFO)				
NNSA/NFO Line Management Organization			NNSA/NFO Project/Program Manager				
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:</b> If any phase of the project/activity involves any of the following considerations, check yes and explain in project description. See NFO-16A for consideration guidelines and examples.							
CONSIDERATION	YES	NO	UNK	CONSIDERATION	YES	NO	UNK
<b>WASTE</b>				<b>AIR EMISSIONS</b>			
1. Non-Rad Solid Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Chemical Release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Hazardous Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Dust/Particulate Matter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Low-Level Rad Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Explosives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Mixed Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Diesel Generators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. TRU/Mixed TRU Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Open Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Wastewater (domestic/industrial)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>				<b>SITE LOCATION/OTHER</b>			
1. Petroleum/Fuel Storage/Use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Environmental Restoration Site (CAU)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Underground Storage Tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Excavation/Land Surface Disturbance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Aboveground Storage Tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Off Road Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. PCBs/Asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Biological/Tortoise Resource Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Pesticides/Herbicides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Cultural/Historic Resource Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Radioactive Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Change in Existing Drainage Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Biological Materials/Simulants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Impact to Environmental Monitoring System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Beryllium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Unexploded Ordnance Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Chemical Storage/Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Use of Explosives/Firearms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Radiation Controlled Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				11. Drinking Water System Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DO NOT TYPE OR WRITE BELOW THIS LINE. FOR NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER USE ONLY.</b>							
B. Is the project/activity included in the final NNS SWEIS and the ROD or other NEPA document? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (complete Sections C, D, and F) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (complete Sections D, E, and F)							
C. This project/activity is included in the NNS SWEIS/ROD (or other NEPA document) under the following section and page number:							
D. Does the proposed project/activity require any local, state, or federal permits or notifications? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No							
E. If, based on the project description and the preliminary environmental considerations noted above, the proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021, write in the space below the paragraph number and short title from the appropriate table of contents of Subpart D, Appendix B, C, or D, for a CX, EA, or EIS. If the proposed action does not fit within any class of action, write "Not Listed" below. 10 CFR 1021: B2.5 Facility safety and environmental improvements							
<b>F. NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER DETERMINATION OR RECOMMENDATION:</b> I have determined that the proposed action as described in Item A has been adequately analyzed and meets the requirements for categorical exclusion under the citation in Item E. No further analysis or documentation is required pursuant to NEPA. Any changes or additions to this proposed action will require additional NEPA review.							
						6/28/2017	
						Date	
_____ NNSA/NFO NEPA Compliance Officer							

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**Project Description:**

An estimated 8,000 telephone poles located throughout the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) have been identified by the Fire & Rescue Department as critical infrastructure that needs to be protected from wildland forest fires. The poles in all areas of the NNSS have weeds around them that must be removed to prevent wildfire damage or destruction. Grading and clearing around power poles would be conducted in phases. Following the initial clearing around each pole, the process would repeat indefinitely through the phases, as needed.

The poles are in previously disturbed areas (e.g. the area was disturbed during installation), with a road leading to each pole and usually going through or around it. Although previously disturbed, many of the areas have not been maintained or disturbed since the original installation of the power poles. Therefore, biological and cultural resources surveys would be conducted during the first round of clearing. Once the area around power poles is conducted the first time, biological and cultural resources surveys would not be needed unless the NNSS Biologists recommend additional surveys for specific areas such as (but not limited to) within Desert tortoise habitat.

An area of up to 450 feet (ft) in diameter would be graded that would include groupings of multiple poles (about three poles) and a 50-ft buffer. Equipment used for the grading would include a tractor and dozer. Existing paved and unpaved roads would be used to access the power poles. No grading or clearing of the access roads would be required.

Phase I: Initial plans would be to clear weeds from the 138 KV line first, since this is the backbone of the power system (approximately 2,000 poles). A secondary line along Mercury Highway would also be cleared in Phase 1. The clearing activities would be a continuous activity. Following the initial clearing around each pole, the process would repeat indefinitely as needed.

**Environmental Considerations:**

**Hazardous Materials**

H.1 Petroleum / Fuel Storage / Use: Operation of heavy equipment during weed-removal activities would require fuel usage. Equipment would be fueled as needed from a fuel truck. Spill mitigation materials would be available during fuel transfer operations.

**Air Emissions**

A.2 Dust / Particulate Matter: Fugitive dust would be generated during clearing of brush and grading the telephone pole areas. Water would be applied as necessary to control dust.

**Site Location/Other**

S.2 Excavation/Land Surface Disturbance: Surface disturbances would occur during grading and removal of brush from previously disturbed areas that have been overgrown with weeds.

S. 4 Biological / Tortoise Resource Area: Some of the telephone poles are located in desert tortoise habitat. A new FRM-0901 was submitted to determine whether biological and desert tortoise surveys would be needed. It was determined that this project should be added to the Biological Opinion (BO). The US Fish and Wildlife Service issued approval to append the project to the BO and issued an incidental take statement for this project on June 8, 2017. Poles in tortoise habitat need to be surveyed within 24 hours of surface disturbance. Surveys should be coordinated with Derek Hall at 5-0364 or Jeanette Perry at 5-0393.

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S.5 Cultural/Historic Resource Area: No cultural resources were observed in the area of Phase I activities. If cultural resources or human remains are encountered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity would be halted, the immediate vicinity of the resources would be secured, and the DOE/NFO site contact would be notified.

S.8 Unexploded Ordnance Area (UXO): Some of the poles may be located in unexploded ordnance areas. The entire area encompassing the NNSS was once part of the Nevada Test and Training Range (formerly the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range). As such, the potential exists to encounter UXO anywhere on the NNSS and surrounding areas. Prior to entering potential UXO areas and/or encountering UXO, the NNSS Operations Coordination Center (OCC) or "Bird Dog" at (702) 295-4015 would be contacted.

S.9 Noise: Noise levels around heavy equipment or moving tractor trailers may exceed 85 dBA. Personnel working around this type of equipment would be required to wear approved hearing protection following Industrial Hygiene guidelines.