

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

NV-2017-014

FOLLOW ATTACHED PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETING CHECKLIST				Date 01/03/2017			
A. Project/Activity Title (Attach a brief description of proposed project)				Anticipated Start Date Ongoing			
Weather Support for the NNSS							
Project Location NNSS		Proposed By (if other than NNSA/NFO) ARL/SORD					
NNSA/NFO Line Management Organization AMNS/STD		NNSA/NFO Project/Program Manager Edward J. Forness					
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: If any phase of the project/activity involves any of the following considerations, check yes and explain in project description. See NSO-16A for consideration guidelines and examples.							
CONSIDERATION	YES	NO	UNK	CONSIDERATION	YES	NO	UNK
WASTE				AIR EMISSIONS			
1. Non-Rad Solid Waste	X			1. Chemical Release		X	
2. Hazardous Waste		X		2. Dust/Particulate Matter		X	
3. Low-Level Rad Waste		X		3. Explosives		X	
4. Mixed Waste		X		4. Diesel Generators	X		
5. TRU/Mixed TRU Waste		X		5. Open Burning		X	
6. Wastewater (domestic/industrial)	X						
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS				SITE LOCATION/OTHER			
1. Petroleum/Fuel Storage/Use	X			1. Environmental Restoration Site (CAU)		X	
2. Underground Storage Tanks		X		2. Excavation/Land Surface Disturbance		X	
3. Aboveground Storage Tanks		X		3. Off Road Travel		X	
4. PCBs/Asbestos		X		4. Biological/Tortoise Resource Area		X	
5. Pesticides/Herbicides		X		5. Cultural/Historic Resource Area		X	
6. Radioactive Materials		X		6. Change in Existing Drainage Pattern		X	
7. Biological Materials/Simulants		X		7. Impact to Environmental Monitoring System		X	
8. Beryllium		X		8. Unexploded Ordnance Area		X	
9. Chemical Storage/Use	X			9. Noise		X	
10. Use of Explosives/Firearms		X		10. Radiation Controlled Area		X	
				11. Drinking Water System Involvement	X		
DO NOT TYPE OR WRITE BELOW THIS LINE. FOR NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER USE ONLY.							
B. Is the project/activity included in the final NNSS SWEIS and the ROD or other NEPA document? Yes (complete Sections C, D, and F) No X (complete Sections D, E, and F)							
C. This project/activity is included in the NNSS 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? Yes X 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: B.1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers							
F. NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER DETERMINATION OR RECOMMENDATION: 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.							

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_____ NNSA/NFO NEPA Compliance Officer	January 9, 2017	_____ Date
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Project Description:

The Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) Special Operations Research Division (SORD) provides a comprehensive meteorology program for the NNSA/NFO on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). This program includes the measurement of meteorological parameters near the surface (1 to 10 meters) and aloft (10 to 35,000 meters). Building 22-1, Desert Rock Meteorological Observatory, is the official National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather station for the NNSS. Wind, temperature, relative humidity, pressure, precipitation, solar and terrestrial radiation measurements are taken at this facility and at more than 20 locations on the NNSS. These data are collected and analyzed in support of the health, safety, environmental compliance, and emergency response of the NNSS for the NNSA/NFO.

Weather tower and equipment sites (e.g., weather stations, precipitation gage stations, lightning sensors, etc.) on the NNSS are visited to install/remove equipment and to perform regularly scheduled maintenance (PM) and repair work which originates from the Observatory. Each weather station/sensor location is visited a minimum of 2 times per year to perform semi-annual maintenance and calibration. Anything above 2 times per year would be to repair the sensors if something failed or upgrades were necessary. Most of the sites are located near main roads, but there are a few that require travel on established dirt roads. No off-road driving on undisturbed desert is required.

Upper air weather balloons are released from the Observatory and other NNSS locations to gather meteorological data aloft in support of special projects and experiments. Weather balloons are released in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations, FAR 101, Subpart A, Section 101.7 and are coordinated, in advance, with the Operations Command Center (OCC) and the Air and Ground Operations Support (AGOS) to ensure safety of aviation assets. Building 22-1, Desert Rock Meteorological Observatory, serves as the backup weather forecast and consequence assessment team location for ARL/SORD.

Environmental Considerations:

Waste:

W-1: Non-Rad Solid Waste. Small quantities of office paper, non-hazardous and non-radioactive expended supplies would be generated during operations. Solid waste would be placed in trash containers and would be collected for routine onsite disposal in a State of Nevada permitted NNSS solid waste landfill.

W-6: Wastewater. No industrial wastewater would be generated during activities. Typical sanitary systems such as toilets and sinks would be provided for domestic wastes. These would be plumbed into appropriate sewage disposal systems.

Hazardous Materials:

H-1: Petroleum/Fuel Storage/Use. Small amounts of gasoline (up to 2 U.S. Gallons) are used and stored to operate a portable gasoline-powered generator and a post driver. Gasoline (up to 2 U.S. Gallons) is stored in an approved gasoline container in a Flammable Liquids Storage Locker outside of Building 22-01.

H-9: Chemical Storage/Use. Minimal amounts of chemicals would be used in facilities. Chemicals would be stored and maintained through established industrial hygiene and safety processes, and Material Safety Data Sheets would be available as required. As appropriate, chemicals would be entered into the hazardous substance tracking system.

Air Emissions:

A-4: Diesel Generators. A 2-kW portable gasoline-powered generator would be used to power a laptop computer and/or electric hand tools while performing site maintenance and/or remote field support on occasion (up to 10 times per year for a couple of hours per use). The generator is small (too small to be included on the

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NNSS air quality permit, if it was stationary) and emissions from it would be minimal. A post driver is used to drive grounding rods into the ground and uses a small 4-cycle engine. The 4-cycle engine is also small (too small to be included on the NNSS air quality permit, if it was stationary) and emissions from it would be minimal.

Site Location/Other:

S-11: Drinking Water System. Occupied facilities would be connected to the State of Nevada permitted potable water system.