



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



**Categorical Exclusion ID#:** NV-2022-021

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**Proposed Action Title:** Engagement Simulation System (ESS) Training

**Program or Field Office:** Nevada Field Office

**Location(s) (City/County/State):** Nye County, NV

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**Proposed Action Description**

Various Force-on-Force and Engagement Simulation System (ESSA) 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
- Area 6 Tumbleweed Range, Device Assembly Facility
- Area 7 Ice Cap
- Area 22 Desert Rock Airport
- Area 23 Training Academy
- Area 25 U25x-Tunnel
- Area 26 Lower Phoenix

Other locations would include portions of Areas 2, 4, 12, and 27. In addition, the Area 6 CP-41 Complex houses the Training and Performance Test and Assessment Sections. The CP-41 complex houses computer simulated training equipment and is also the staging area for Contractor Protective Force's training exercises conducted at various locations throughout the NNSS on a periodic basis. Protective Force exercises require a staging area to issue ESS firearms, test fire blank ammunition, and train with flash bangs. No live ammunition is used.

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 team scenarios in which team members may be 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. In



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other training scenarios, teams would not be using any equipment, but would be collecting data and transmitting it to a source. Inter-team and intra-team communications equipment is provided, as required. 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 would occur at least quarterly; more often as needed.

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**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied**

10 CFR 1021, B1.2 Training exercises and simulations

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**Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021**

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.

**To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, DOE shall determine the following:**

- (1) The proposal fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D;
- (2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

**The classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, include the following conditions as integral elements of the classes of actions. To fit within the classes of actions in Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not:** (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.



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**NEPA Compliance Officer Determination**

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under NNSA NAP 451.1 and DOE P 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action and I have reviewed the proposal for integral elements. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances present and that the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Carrie Stewart

Date Determined: 7/18/2022