



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#: NV-2022-022

Proposed Action Title: Military Data Collection Training

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description

Training exercises would take place at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in Area 25 at the U25x-Tunnel facility and Area 26 at the Upper Phoenix Facility. The proposed training would be to conduct data collection exercises.

The training would 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 data collection equipment. Blank cartridges would be retrieved and disposed of properly during and at the end of the exercise. In 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 would be provided, as required. All training would be controlled and supervised by a controller(s) assigned to each major element.

The following is a description of the training:

1. Firearms would be issued from a staging area located in Mercury. Blank ammunition will be used.
2. Personnel would be escorted by Maintenance and Operating Contractor (M&O) personnel in vehicles from Mercury to the selected location (U25x-Tunnel, Upper Phoenix).
3. Vehicles and personnel would only access locations via existing roads, walkways, and parking areas. No off-road driving or walking is required.
4. Personnel would carry weapons with blank ammunition for the exercise to simulate real- work experience.
5. Data collection would be performed by personnel on foot in and around selected locations.
6. Personnel would demobilize from selected locations and be transported via M&O personnel escorts in vehicles back to Mercury.

Activities include foot and/or vehicle use on existing dirt roads with global positioning system equipment to accomplish the objective of data collection.

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.

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: 7/20/2022