



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



**Categorical Exclusion ID#:** NV-2022-014

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**Proposed Action Title:** Weather Support for the NNSS

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

**Location(s) (City/County/State):** Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, NV

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**Proposed Action Description**

The Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) Special Operations Research Division (SORD) provides a comprehensive meteorology program for 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 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 for NNSA/NFO in support of health, safety, environmental compliance, and emergency response at the NNSS.

Weather tower and equipment sites (e.g., weather stations, precipitation gage stations, lightning sensors) are visited to install/remove equipment and to perform regularly scheduled maintenance and repair work, which originates from the Observatory.

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 and Air and Ground Operations Support 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.

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**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied**

B1-19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

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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



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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: June 15, 2022