



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#: NV-2023-018 REV 1

Proposed Action Title: Mercury Shooting Range Lighting Upgrade

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description

An active shooting range used for protective force training and certification is located in the northwest part of Mercury in Area 23 of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSA), 0.5 miles west of the Mercury By-Pass Road. Under the current conditions, the lighting that illuminates the shooting ranges is inadequate by modern standards and would require an upgrade to light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures when replaced. To facilitate the new lighting, eleven new poles would be required with fiber optic cable and access to an air compressor for support. In addition, six existing solar light towers would be removed and the piers painted for visibility purposes. There would not be any removal of vegetation or off-road driving. This is to support the maintenance and repair operations conducted by the range armorer.

Proposed Project Tasks:

- Survey locations for new utility poles (eleven) along the perimeter of Ranges C, D, and E
- Drill up to eleven (11) holes to a depth not to exceed 20-feet below ground surface and 24-inches in diameter
- Install utility poles
- Backfill holes with native soil and compact
- Install new cross members atop the utility poles to support the installation of the new LED light fixtures
- Install new overhead power cable from main power supply to the end of the new pole line at Range E



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- Install a messenger, or support cable, from 23-1103 to each existing and newly installed utility pole for the installation of the fiber optic cable to each range, A-E
- Construct 7'6" X 10' concrete pad for a mounted air compressor on east side of building 23-1103
- Remove six existing solar light towers and associated electric and lighting fixture components
- Remove, cut, grind, or otherwise modify concrete pier bolts to be flush with pier surface
- Paint remaining pier surfaces yellow for visibility

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied

10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities and B4.7 Fiber Optic Cable

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



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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: Patricia Gallo

Date Determined: May 9, 2024