



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



**Categorical Exclusion ID#:** NV-2023-022 REV 1

**Proposed Action Title:** Nevada Space Proving Grounds Training Exercises

**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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and other NSPG partners propose training and equipment testing exercises to test and simulate data collection for upcoming missions. The training would take place at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in Areas 1, 3, 4, 7 (Icecap), 9, 18 (Buckboard Mesa), and 20 (Schooner Crater). The proposed training would include day- and night-time training exercises. The exercises would test equipment and hardware to address various NASA detailed communication, navigation, and scientific objectives.

NSPG partners (public and private) would conduct on-foot extra-vehicular activities (EVAs) to complete various science objectives to further develop the fundamental geology training curriculum that would be conducted at the NNSS as part of the future space mission assigned crew training flow.

All NASA testing during the exercise would consist of preplanned team scenarios in which team members would be equipped with a variety of data collection equipment. In these training scenarios, teams would be collecting data (e.g., electronic, surface soil samples) and transmitting these to a receiver.

Surface soil sample collection would be limited to 8-inches below ground surface and all soil collected would be returned to the point of origin. No soil would leave the immediate collection point.

A staging area would be established in a previously disturbed parking area near Icecap, and multiple generators may be used to power NSPG partners equipment, including computer equipment, lights, command center, an air compressor, and lighting rigs.

All training would be controlled and supervised by a controller(s) assigned to each major element.

The following is a description of the exercise:

1. A temporary, battery-powered light would be placed on the roof of Icecap for visual observation purposes, simulating the rocket as if on the surface of the moon. Once training is completed, the light would be removed as part of the demobilization process.
2. Activities would include foot and/or vehicle use on existing dirt roads with global positioning system equipment to accomplish the objective of data collection.
3. Vehicles and personnel would only access locations via existing roads, walkways, and parking areas. No off-road driving would be required.
4. Data collection would be performed by personnel on foot in and around selected locations.
5. Personnel would demobilize from selected locations and be transported back to Mercury.



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**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:** 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, 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 10 CFR 1021.102, Appendix B to 10 CFR 1021, and also Section 5.4 and Appendices B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025).

**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 B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B or C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). To fit within these classes of actions a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of action in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures;
  - (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.
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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 a designated NNSA NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Patricia Gallo

Date Determined: December 4, 2025