



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: Creation of Turnaround Areas (NV-2017-032)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

The purpose of this project is to create or widen existing turnaround areas that are located mainly in remote areas of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Access to and quick egress from areas are needed by firemen when fighting wildfires. Also, roads leading to remotely located diesel-fired backup generators for communications towers are often used by heavy equipment during repair and maintenance activities. Heavy equipment and fire trucks need additional turn-around space. Examples include DOE Point (Area 12), Echo Peak (Area 19) and Shoshone Peak (Area 29)—all of these sites house communications equipment having backup diesel-fired generators. These roads would also be used as needed by the firefighters.

Turnaround areas would be created at previously disturbed road junctions, if possible, in order to minimize disruption to undisturbed areas. Other types of previously disturbed areas, such as pushouts (where excess material was previously pushed out of the way), would also be used if possible. The turnaround areas would be approximately 45 feet in diameter.

Sites in addition to DOE Point (Area 12), Echo Peak (Area 19), and Shoshone Peak (Area 29) may be identified in the future. Biological and cultural resource clearances would be obtained, and documentation would be added to this NEPA Checklist before ground-disturbing activities occur.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR 1021, B1.32 Traffic flow adjustments to existing roads at DOE sites

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. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451. 1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action and that other-regulatory requirements set forth above are met. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Carrie Stewart

Date Determined: May 23, 2017