



# National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

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Proposed Action Title: Desert Research Institute Cultural Resources Management Program (NV-2017-042)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), Nye County NV; Tonopah Test Range and Nevada Test and Training Range, Nye and Clark counties, NV

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Proposed Action Description:

The cultural resources activities are conducted to assist NNSA/NFO's compliance with the legal framework for the cultural resources management program. This regulatory environment consists of a number of laws, regulations, executive orders, and DOE policies. These include, but are not limited to: the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as codified in Title 54 USC, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as codified in Title 42 USC Chapter 55, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) as codified in Title 16 USC Chapter 1b, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) as codified in Title 25 USC Chapter 32, Executive Order (EO) 11593 (1971), EO 13007 (1996), EO 13084 (1998), EO 13287 (2003), DOE Policy 141.1—Department of Energy Management of Cultural Resources, and DOE Order 144.1 Admin Chg 1—Department of Energy American Indian Tribal Government Interactions and Policy. Compliance with the above often requires pedestrian surveys for cultural resources by qualified persons.

Cultural resources compliance surveys, required by the NHPA Section 106 and NEPA, are conducted prior to projects proposed by NNSA/NFO and other users at the NNSS, TTR, and NTTR to identify and protect cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Survey areas vary by project scope. Historical Evaluations are conducted for buildings and structures associated with the nuclear testing program. Cultural resources inventories of unrecorded areas are conducted for compliance with NHPA Section 110 in order to identify significant cultural resources and provide data for the NNSA/NSO management of these resources. From time to time, fieldwork is conducted to assist a user with the identification of a location that will not impact cultural resources. Monitoring of NRHP eligible sites is conducted continually. Finally, support is provided to the American Indian Consultation Program for consultations at locations at the NNSS, TTR, and NTTR.

Cultural resources work is tasked for all areas of the NNSS and select locations on the TTR and NTTR where NNSA/NFO activities may occur. During the fieldwork, cultural resources personnel access locations via existing roadways and walk to project locations. On rare occasions, remote locations may be accessed by helicopter. Pedestrian surveys are undertaken when cultural resources need to be identified within tracts of land. The entire area is walked on foot, the location is mapped and photographed, and all cultural resources are recorded and photographed. For historical evaluations, locations are accessed by existing roads and the building or structure is photographed and mapped. From time to time, interviews are conducted with people knowledgeable about the activities at the location. Information is collected that will assist in determining the NRHP status for the cultural resources and appropriate management actions. All work is conducted in accordance with federal and state requirements.

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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR 1021: Appendix B, B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources

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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: June 15, 2017