



# National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

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Proposed Action Title: Remote Sensing Laboratory – Andrews Operations (RSL-A) (NV-2019-013)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Joint Base Andrews Air Force Base, Suitland, MD

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Proposed Action Description:

The Remote Sensing Laboratory Andrews (RSL-A) complex is located approximately 9 miles southeast of the Washington D.C. city center, and lies within the boundaries of Andrews Air Force Base (AAFB). Access to the base is restricted at all times. RSL-A facilities are leased from AAFB.

The RSL-A Complex is used to support a wide range of functions in support of Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) missions and NNSA authorized work for others. These functions consist of a variety of activities related to emergency response, including radiological, technical operations, and specialized engineering research and development; technical training; component and prototype development and testing.

**Building 1783, Main Building:** This building consists of 23,600 square feet of office and lab space. Maintenance and alterations for the Main Building are performed in combination by AAFB (if they deem the work to fall within their areas of responsibility), sub-contractors, or RSL-A facilities personnel. The work performed in this area includes standard office work, large volume shipping and receiving operations, facility maintenance, vehicle inspection and servicing, electronics testing and bench work, electronic component assembly, computer programming, machine shop fabrication, equipment maintenance and calibration, emergency response deployment operations, training for federal, state and local emergency responders, and related support and logistic activities. In addition to the work performed in this building, radioactive sources are stored in approved areas, resulting in a hazard categorization level of four. Approximately 1000 liters of liquid nitrogen is kept on site for cooling of radiological detector systems and is stored in a designated area equipped with an oxygen level monitoring system. Subcontractors are utilized to perform work on the HVAC system, elevator and backup generator, consisting of electrical component replacement and troubleshooting, maintenance and inspection of hydraulic systems, servicing with refrigerants, oil, and diesel fuel. A low pressure compressed air system is in place for utilization of pneumatic tools and servicing of vehicle tires.

**Building 1794, Hangar 2:** Hangar 2 consists of 18,298 square feet of floor space for RSL Andrews aircraft and 4,033 square feet of office space leased to DOE through the Air Force. The work performed in this area includes aircraft maintenance, servicing, and flight operations, which take place on the hangar floor and flight line ramp area. Additional work performed inside the office areas of Hangar 2 includes standard office work, flight planning, machine shop fabrication, electronic bench work, electronic component assembly, software programming and supporting administrative office functions. Compressed nitrogen gas and oxygen servicing is performed on aircraft and low pressure compressed air systems are available for utilization of pneumatic tools.

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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR 1021: B1.15 Siting, construction and operation of support buildings/structures; B3.2 Aviation activities for survey, monitoring or security purposes; B3.6 Small-scale research and development projects

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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.