

**NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) 3**  
**Categorically Excluded Actions**

**Document ID #:**  
DOE/CX-00215, R3

**I. Project Title:**

HMIS Annual Categorical Exclusion (CX) B3.2, Aviation Activities for CY 2024

**II. Describe the proposed action, including location, time period over which proposed action will occur, project dimension (e.g., acres displaced/disturbed, excavation length/depth), and area/location/number of buildings. Attach narratives, maps and drawings of proposed action. Describe existing environmental conditions and potential for environmental impacts from the proposed action. If the proposed action is not a project, describe the action or plan.**

Hanford Mission Integration Solutions (HMIS) and its subcontractors perform aviation activities for survey, monitoring, or security purposes that comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

HMIS Environmental Field Support and U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL), Site Stewardship Division propose to routinely use small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) on the Hanford Site for aerial surveying, monitoring, and security purposes. The UAS would be operated by a centralized organization using trained, qualified, and certified operators. A flight request would be initiated for each flight through the DOE-RL Flight Management System and the DOE-RL Aviation Manager/Aviation Safety Officer in accordance with HMIS-PRO-SP-104, "Aviation Safety Program" and other applicable requirements. The request would include information on the proposed launch point(s) and flight path. The UAS would be equipped to carry sensing/data collection technologies (i.e. optical cameras, video capabilities, sensors, etc.) and would meet all FAA and DOE requirements (e.g., FAA's 14 CFR 107, "Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems"). The conditions and restrictions on the flights would be specified (e.g., maximum altitude, acceptable weather conditions, time, and acceptable locations/airspace for flights). The UAS would not fly over the maximum allowed height of 400-feet and would remain in sight of the pilot at all times. Each flight would include a trained, qualified, and certified pilot in command of the UAS and at least one visual observer, and all personnel would be properly badged for access to the Hanford Site. All activities would meet the requirements outlined in DOE's Aviation Implementation Document and the HMIS UAS Safety Management Program.

All UAS flights would be performed in accordance with HNF-66528, "Cultural and Ecological Resources Best Management Practices (BMP) for the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program on the Hanford Site," which is an integral part of the proposed action and serves to address extraordinary circumstances or other conditions sufficient to avoid significant effects [40 CFR 1501.4(b)(1)]. The intent of this document is to provide guidance on best management practices to ensure the operation of the UAS Program and implementation of individual UAS flights are conducted in a manner that is protective of cultural and ecological resources and in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and requirements.

Proposed actions performed under this annual categorical exclusion (Annual CX) include those listed in the Hanford Mission Essential Services Contract (HMESC No. 89303320DEM000031) between HMIS and DOE-RL, Section C, "Performance Work Statement," as amended. In addition, Sections J-3.a and J-3.b, "Hanford Site Services and Interface Requirements Matrix" and implementing protocols, policies, and procedures apply. The buildings, structures, infrastructures, and equipment covered by this Annual CX include those listed in Sections J.12, "Hanford Structure Responsibility Assignment Matrix" and J.13, "Hanford Waste Site Responsibility Assignment Matrix" where HMIS is the assigned contractor or provides services to other Hanford Site contractors.

This Annual CX covers routine and recurring actions that meet the requirements [see 10 CFR 1021.410, "Application of Categorical Exclusions (classes of actions that normally do not require EAs or EISs)"] and conditions that are "integral elements" for applying CXs [see 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, "B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B"]. To meet the requirements, actions would not individually or cumulatively have significant effects on the human environment; would fit CX classes of actions definitions, including any caveats for use of the CX; and would not have "extraordinary circumstances" that may affect the significance of environmental effects of the proposed action. In addition, the proposed action has not been improperly segmented; the proposed action is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts, 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 [see 10 CFR 1021.410(b)(3)]. Section V of this NEPA Review Screening Form (NRSF) provides a summary of integral elements. This Annual CX includes foreseeable activities necessary for implementing proposed actions, such as award of grants and contracts, site preparation, purchase and

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**Categorically Excluded Actions (Continued)**

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installation of equipment, and associated transportation activities [see 10 CFR 1021.410(d)].

The HMIS Environmental Compliance Officers and NEPA Subject Matter Expert would ensure that applicable requirements and conditions are met prior to applying this Annual CX to the proposed action. This includes compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other applicable laws and regulations; as well as conformance with applicable NEPA environmental assessments or environmental impact statements, such as the "Hanford Site Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement" (DOE/EIS-0222-F) and "Record of Decision," which provides land use maps, designations, policies, and procedures.

This Annual CX is approved pursuant to 10 CFR 1021.410(f) in which proposed recurring actions undertaken during a specified time period may be addressed in a single CX determination after considering the potential aggregated impacts to ensure no extraordinary circumstances exist. DOE has considered the individual and aggregated impacts of the action proposed under this Annual CX when making the determination that it fits within the class of actions listed in Section IV of this NRSF, that there are no extraordinary circumstances over the life of the proposed action, that the proposed action has not been improperly segmented, and that the requirements and conditions that are integral elements for applying the CX to the proposed action are met. Any changes to this annual CX require approval by the DOE NEPA Compliance Officer.

**III. Existing Evaluations (Provide with NRSF to DOE NCO):**

Maps:

N/A

Other Attachments:

HNF-66528, "Cultural and Ecological Resources Best Management Practices (BMP) for the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program on the Hanford Site."

**IV. List Applicable CX(s) from Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021:**

B3.2, Aviation Activities

<b>V. Integral Elements and Extraordinary Circumstances (See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Class of Actions in Appendix B; and 10 CFR 1021.410(b)(2) under Application of Categorical Exclusions)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Are there extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action? If yes, describe them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Is the proposed action connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or that could result in cumulatively significant impacts? If yes, describe them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements related to the environment, safety, health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or natural gas products already in the environment such that there might be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources? See examples in Appendix B(4) to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Would the proposed action involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, such that the action is not contained or confined in a manner designed, operated, and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements to prevent unauthorized release into the environment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
If "No" to all questions above, complete Section VI, and provide NRSF and any attachments to DOE NCO for review. If "Yes" to any of the questions above, contact DOE NCO for additional NEPA review.		

**VI. Responsible Organization's Signatures:**

Initiator:

Cody M. Schrader, HMIS NEPA SME  
 Print First and Last Name

**CODY SCHRADER**  
 (Affiliate)

*Digitally signed by CODY SCHRADER (Affiliate)*  
 Date: 2023.10.17 14:22:24 -07'00'  
 Signature / Date

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**Cognizant Program/Project Representative:**

N/A

*Print First and Last Name*

*Signature / Date*

**VII. DOE NEPA Compliance Officer Approval/Determination:**

Based on my review of information conveyed to me concerning the proposed action, the proposed action fits within the specified

CX(s):  Yes  No

Douglas H. Chapin, DOE Hanford NCO

*Print First and Last Name*

**DOUGLAS CHAPIN**

*Digitally signed by DOUGLAS  
CHAPIN*

*Date: 2023.12.12 15:29:14 -08'00'*

*Signature / Date*

NCO Comments: