Nevada National Security Site

Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement

On February 14, 2013, the Final Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) and Off-Site Locations in the State of Nevada was published. Available electronically and in hard copy, the document can be obtained at www.nv.energy.gov/sweis or by calling 702-295-3521.

Stakeholder and public participation played an important role in the development of the final document, to include the several hundred comments submitted. Publication of this Final SWEIS, and issuance of the Record of Decision, replaced the 1996 SWEIS and two Supplement Analyses that followed.

The Record of Decision (available at http://energy.gov/nepa/downloads/eis-0426-record-decision) implemented the Reduced Operations Alternative identified as the Preferred Alternative in the Final SWEIS (see Summary, Table S–1, and Chapter 3, Section 3.4).

These documents were prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements that dictate government agencies to prepare Environmental Impact Statements analyzing how activities at their respective sites may be impacting the environment. The Final SWEIS identified and evaluated potential environmental impacts of alternatives for managing U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO) activities on the NNSS and its off-site locations in the state of Nevada. These off-site locations include: the Remote Sensing Laboratory at Nellis Air Force Base, the NNSA/NFO campus in North Las Vegas, and the Nevada Test and Training Range, including activities conducted at the Tonopah Test Range. Activities are analyzed using several scenarios referred to as alternatives. The Final SWEIS explored three alternatives:

- **No Action Alternative**
- **Expanded Operations Alternative**
- **Reduced Operations Alternative**

The SWEIS Process

Notice of Intent to Prepare SWEIS
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Public Outreach/Scoping
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Preparation of Draft SWEIS
↓
Notice of Availability of Draft EIS Published in Federal Register
↓
Public Information Meetings and Comment Period
↓
Preparation of Final SWEIS
↓
Notice of Availability of Final SWEIS Published in Federal Register
↓
30-Day Waiting Period
↓
Record of Decision

Potential impacts to resources analyzed include: land use, geology and soils, air quality, water, biological, cultural, socioeconomics, and public health and safety. The NNSA/NFO also analyzed impacts of current waste management practices and radioactive and hazardous materials transportation. However, NNSA's decision to maintain existing routing preferences was not addressed in the Record of Decision as it is captured in the Nevada National Security Site Waste Acceptance Criteria.

After considering the potential impacts to each resource area by alternative, the Reduced Operations Alternative was selected as the environmentally preferred alternative. The operational level of this alternative would be reduced for most programs, and most activities would cease in the northwestern portion of the NNSS, with the exception of environmental restoration and monitoring, site security operations, military training and exercises, and maintenance of certain critical infrastructure systems. This reduced level of activities, as well as closure of some older and less efficient facilities, would result in lower levels of water, fuel, and electricity use; less physical disturbance of land; and reduced onsite generation of some types of wastes. The pace of environmental restoration activities, as well as other requirements for environmental monitoring and protection, would generally remain unchanged from current levels.

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DOE/NV -- 1353
October 2015

National Nuclear Security Administration