PREAPPROVAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR
RADIOLOGICAL/NUCLEAR COUNTERMEASURES TEST AND EVALUATION
COMPLEX, NEVADA TEST SITE (NTS) (DOE/EA-1499)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site
Office (NNSA/NSO), on behalf of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and as part of its Work for Others activities, proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a facility at
the NTS to test and evaluate sensor systems and their associated operational procedures and
protocols that may be used at border crossings and transportation facilities to detect the
presence of radiological and/or nuclear materials. The proposed facility would be known as the
Radiological/Nuclear Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Complex (Rad/NucCTEC). A vital part of defending the United States is the ability to interdict unauthorized transportation of
radioactive material into the country. The DHS is the federal organization charged with
defending the borders of the United States. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law
107-296), includes provisions authorizing the DHS to utilize DOE sites in carrying out its
missions. As part of project planning and in compliance with the National Environmental
Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, NNSA/NSO prepared the enclosed preapproval draft EA to
address the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

As presently conceived, the Rad/NucCTEC would consist of eight venues, including: (1) Port
of Entry - Primary, (2) Port of Entry - Secondary, (3) Airport Customs Facility, (4) Active
Interrogation Facility (active radiation sensor detection systems), (5) Environmental Test
Facility, (6) Portal Test Track, (7) a two to three mile long High-Speed Road, and (8) a
Training Facility. The estimated area that would be impacted by these venues is about 50
acres. Additional potential venues could increase the impact area by as much as 50 acres.
Those potential future venues could include: a railroad about two miles in length, a simulated
seaport including an operational gantry crane and cargo ship mock-up, and a mock urban area
for conducting simulated radiological/nuclear searches. Construction of the Rad/NucCTEC
would include access roads, extension of water and electrical service to the facilities, and
treatment facilities for domestic sewage. There would be no releases of radioactive material
associated with normal operation of Rad/NucCTEC. The EA includes a detailed description of
the proposed Rad/NucCTEC.
The EA addresses the potential impacts to the biological, geological, hydrological, social, and cultural environments and of using radiological sources and special nuclear materials in the Rad/NucCTEC venues. NNSA/NSO is making the preapproval draft EA available for review and comment by federal, state, and local government agencies and other interested parties. The comment period will conclude 33 days following the date of this letter. Please provide comments on the preapproval draft EA to the following:

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or e-mail schmidho@nv.doc.gov

If there are questions regarding the proposed action please contact Mr. Schmidhofer at (702) 295-0159. Questions regarding DOE’s NEPA procedures may be addressed to the NNSA/NSO NEPA Compliance Officer, Michael G. Skougard at (702) 295-1759.

Kenneth A. Hoar, Director
Environment, Safety & Health Division

ESHD:MGS-4258
ENV 11-05

Enclosure:
As stated

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