



**Department of Energy**  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Nevada Site Office  
P.O. Box 98518  
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

JUN 03 2004

**RECEIVED**

JUN 07 2004

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

Michael J. Stafford  
Nevada State Clearinghouse  
Department of Administration  
209 East Musser  
Carson City, NV 89710

**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.

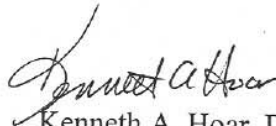
JUN 03 2004

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:

Dirk Schmidhofer  
NEPA Document Manager  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Nevada Site Office  
P.O. Box 98518  
Las Vegas, NV 89193

or e-mail [schmidho@nv.doe.gov](mailto:schmidho@nv.doe.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

cc w/encl:  
M. J. Elges, BAPC, Carson City, NV  
Stan Marshall, BHPS, Carson City, NV  
Teri Maize, NDEP, Las Vegas, NV  
D. R. Elle, NDEP, Las Vegas, NV