



Nevada Site Office News

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For Immediate Release:

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Scoping Meetings Planned on Environmental Assessment for Chemical and Biological Materials Releases at the Nevada Test Site

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Chemical and Biological Materials Releases at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). Implementation of the proposed actions under review would enhance the capability to support additional research and development, training, and field evaluation activities such as those conducted through the National Center for Combating Terrorism.

The EA will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the expansion of current critical national security mission capabilities beyond those already addressed in existing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents for the NTS. The proposed actions that will be addressed include:

- Providing locations, facilities, infrastructure, and support for work involving handling, storing, and releasing non-pathogenic (non-infectious) biological materials under controlled conditions
- Allowing releases of small quantities of chemicals at various new locations on the NTS
- Modify existing release criteria to accommodate a wider range of wind conditions for low-concentration releases at the Hazardous Materials Spill Center

There will be a 30-day scoping period beginning on October 1, 2003, and closing on October 30, 2003, to receive comments on the proposed action. Two public scoping meetings are scheduled to provide background information on the proposed activities and to receive comments on the scope of the Environmental Assessment.

When:	October 15 7:00 p.m.	October 16 7:00 p.m.
Where:	Santa Fe Station Pueblo Room 4949 North Rancho Road North Las Vegas, Nevada	Rudd Community Center Highway 160 and Basin Road Pahrump, Nevada

Comments on the scope of the environmental assessment should be addressed to: NEPA Document Manager, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193.

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