



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



**Proposed Action Title:** National Security Prototype Center (NSPC) Deed Modification, Construction, Lease, and Equipment Installation

**Program or Field Office:** Y-12 Field Office

**Location(s) (City/County/State):** Oak Ridge/Roane County/Tennessee

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**Reference** Environmental Assessment for the Oak Ridge Enhanced Technology and Training Center (ORETTC) (DOE/EA-2144); Considerations for National Security Prototype Center (NSPC), From Chloe L. Costanzo, NEPA Compliance Officer, February 26, 2026.

**Proposed Action Description**

This Categorical Exclusion Determination (CXD) is intended to cover revisions to a Quit Claim Deed that will allow the change for the intended use of the transferred parcel. The CXD covers the 1) deed amendment; 2) land preparation and construction of NSPC; 3) the lease of a portion of the new building with federal funds; and 4) purchase and installation of government furnished equipment within the leased portion of the building.

The NSPC is located on a 20-acre parcel that contains the already constructed and operating Emergency Response Training Facility (ERTF). NNSA transferred the land via a deed that restricted additional land-use beyond what was required for ERTF functions. A deed amendment has been proposed to enable the construction and operation of the NSPC through state of Tennessee funding, but ultimately in support of NNSA mission activities.

Specifically, NSPC is needed to fill a requirements gap for prototyping capability and capacity to serve the United States at the intersection of manufacturing technology for nuclear deterrence, national security and the nuclear energy renaissance. The new facility will be approximately 60,000 ft<sup>2</sup> and located on the southern portion of already transferred parcel. The new space will be built on Roane County land and funded by the University of Tennessee.. This new space will be shared with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC, the management and operating contractor for the Y-12 National Security Complex, will lease space, install government furnished equipment, and operate its portion of the facility. This subset portion of space involves the future lease of approximately 20,000 square foot mixed use space (and 20,000 ft<sup>2</sup> common space) to include high-bay area for prototype development, light laboratories for material characterization and assisted / virtual reality research, and office space.

The NSPC will not exceed H-2 hazard level and will not involve radioactive materials other than possibly using sealed analytical type sources. Common materials include metals, plastics, ceramics, and composites. Mills, lathes, presses, CMM equipment and other standard shop equipment would be installed and used.

The language within 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B was considered in the development of this Categorical Exclusion Determination. The analysis completed in the Memo-to-File, *Environmental Assessment for the Oak Ridge Enhanced Technology and Training Center (ORETTC) (DOE/EA-2144); Considerations for National Security Prototype Center (NSPC)*

(2026), for the Environmental Assessment associated with this property, (DOE/EA-2144) supports, and is incorporated by this reference, the determination made herein and the decision to reference B1.24, B1.15, and B1.31. Notable criteria considered for that determination include: 1) no significant impacts identified for similar activities at the closely located ERTF; 2) no identifiable substances for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment; 3) proposed location is located contiguous to a previously disturbed and developed area; 4) the mission activities do not represent production activities and are aligned with those cited in B1.15; and 5) neither waste storage nor nuclear weapons activities are planned for the NSPC.

**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:** B1.24 – Property transfers  
B1.15 – Support Buildings  
B1.31 – Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment

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**Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021**

For the complete Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102, Appendix B to 10 CFR 1021, and also Section 5.4 and Appendices B and C of DOE’s NEPA Implementing Procedures (February 2, 2026).

**To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, DOE shall determine the following:**

- (1) The proposal fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of DOE’s NEPA Implementing Procedures (February 2, 2026). To fit within these classes of actions, this proposal does not violate the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B;
  - (2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that indicate a normally excluded agency action is likely to have a reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effect; and
  - (3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.
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**NEPA Compliance Officer Determination**

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as a designated NNSA NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:  Chloe L. Costanzo Digitally signed by Chloe L. Costanzo  
Date: 2026.02.26 15:09:56 -05'00' Date Determined: February 26, 2026