

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**RADIOLOGICAL/NUCLEAR COUNTERMEASURES TEST AND
EVALUATION COMPLEX, NEVADA TEST SITE**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the Federal organization charged with defending the borders of the United States under the authority the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296). The DHS requested the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to develop at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) a complex for testing and evaluating countermeasures for interdicting potential terrorist attacks using radiological and/or nuclear weapons of mass destruction. In response to that request, NNSA proposes to construct, operate, and maintain the Radiological/Nuclear Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Complex (Rad/NucCTEC). NNSA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1499) (EA) which analyzes the potential environmental effects of the proposed Rad/NucCTEC at the NTS. The EA evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed project on all aspects of the human environment. The EA evaluated the proposed action of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Rad/NucCTEC and the No Action alternative. The EA addresses the purpose and need for the proposed action and describes it in detail. It also includes a description of the affected environment and an analysis of environmental consequences, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed action and the no action alternative.

The NNSA determined that the proposed action as described in the EA would meet the needs of the agency in accomplishing its mission of supporting national security while maintaining adequate controls to protect worker and public health and safety and protect the environment.

FINDING:

Based on the information and analysis in the EA, the NNSA finds that the proposed action would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Thus, an environmental impact statement is not required.

Signed in Las Vegas, Nevada, this 2 day of September , 2004


for Kathleen A. Carlson, Manager
Nevada Site Office