

Developing the Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS)

The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) prepared a Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), and other Nevada facilities under its purview. These other locations include the Remote Sensing Laboratory at Nellis Air Force Base, the NNSA/NSO campus in North Las Vegas, and portions of the Nevada Test and Training Range to include the Tonopah Test Range. A minimum of 30 days following the **Notice of Availability** for this Final SWEIS, a Record of Decision will be published to guide NNSA/NSO activities for the next 10 years.

Preparation of this document is in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* which requires federal agencies to evaluate how activities at their respective sites affect the environment. Under this process, a Draft SWEIS was published in mid-2011 and comments received for that document were considered during preparation of this Final SWEIS.

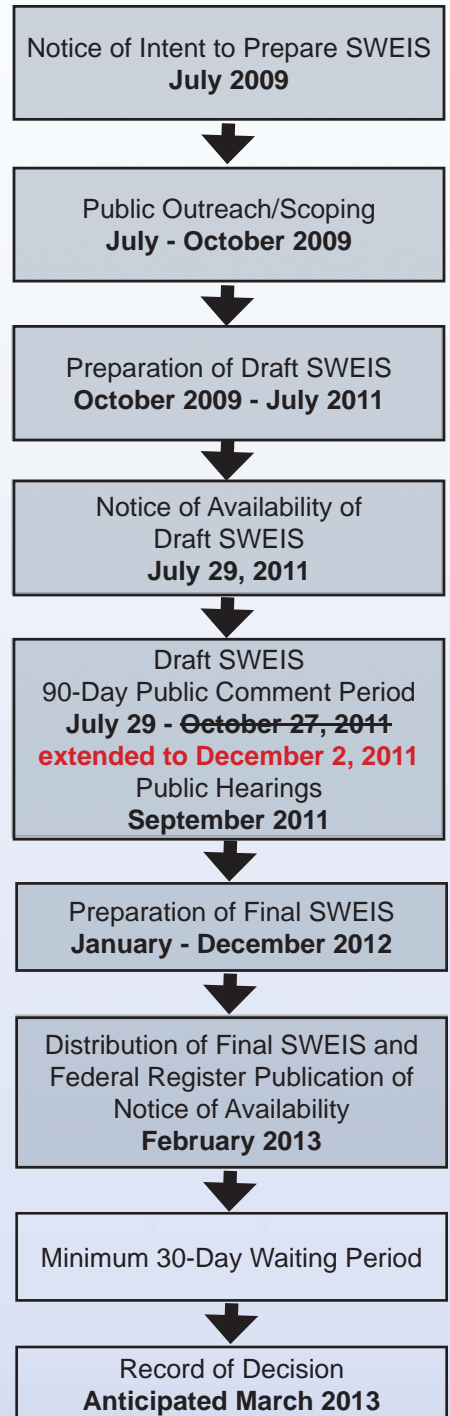
What's in the Document?

The SWEIS identifies and analyzes issues such as: changes in the environmental baseline; radioactive waste transportation and disposal; and potential new or expanded programs and activities.

The document is arranged to present analyses of potential impacts under the following three alternatives:

- The **No Action Alternative** reflects the use of existing facilities and ongoing projects to maintain operations consistent with those experienced in recent years. For each of the three mission areas and their supporting programs, the level of operation for associated capabilities, projects, and activities is determined by those realized since 1996.
- The **Expanded Operations Alternative** includes the activities and level of operations under the No Action Alternative, plus the level of operations associated with expansion of existing activities and additional capabilities.

The SWEIS Process



The additional capabilities and increased level of operations would include modification and/or expansion of existing facilities, and construction of new facilities and greater numbers of activities than under the No Action Alternative.

- The **Reduced Operations Alternative** reflects diminished activity levels, as well as decommissioned facilities and areas. The Reduced Operations Alternative includes continued implementation of previous NEPA decisions, but may not retain all capabilities from those decisions. No new projects or facilities are proposed under the Reduced Operations Alternative. Operational levels would be reduced relative to the No Action Alternative, and geographical and organizational constraints would be placed upon some activities under the Reduced Operations Alternative.

A comprehensive table is included in the Final SWEIS that provides a **Comparison of Mission-Based Program Activities Under the Proposed Alternatives and Identification of the Preferred Alternative** on page S-11 of the Summary.

Record of Decision

In accordance with NEPA, a minimum of 30 days following distribution of the Final SWEIS, the National Nuclear Security Administration will publish a Record of Decision that will state what actions will be taken based upon the analyses presented in the Final SWEIS. This includes selecting the alternative that will guide NNSA/NSO activities over the next 10 years. The Record of Decision also discusses the alternatives considered, including the environmentally preferred alternative, and a potential mitigation plan.

The Final SWEIS and subsequent Record of Decision will replace the 1996 SWEIS and two Supplemental Analyses that followed.

The Process and You

Public participation is instrumental throughout a SWEIS development process. Public hearings held in Las Vegas, Pahrump, Tonopah, Carson City, and St. George, UT facilitated the exchange of information and dialogue with stakeholders. In fact, stakeholder feedback led to extending the public comment period for the Draft SWEIS more than 30 days. During the comment period, more than 750 comments were received from individuals, organizations, and government agencies. In response to these comments, the Final SWEIS includes additional environmental baseline information, and new and revised analyses. Volume 3 of the Final SWEIS (Comment Response Document) includes all comments submitted, a response to each comment, and an overview of the entire public comment process, to include changes made to the Final SWEIS.

To obtain more information or a copy of the Final SWEIS, call 702-295-3521 or visit the SWEIS website at www.nv.energy.gov/sweis.

**National Nuclear Security Administration
Nevada Site Office
Attn: NNS SWEIS
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518**

