

DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE
CULTURAL RESOURCES RECONNAISSANCE
REPORT SR012705-1 - DRI PROJECT 0525TR

CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
FOR
FOUR PROPOSED UNDERTAKINGS
BY
SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORY
ON THE
TONOPAHL TEST RANGE, NEVADA

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Executive Summary

Sandia National Laboratory (SNL), Albuquerque, New Mexico, proposes to conduct four separate undertakings on the Tonopah Test Range in northern Nye County, Nevada. These four undertakings include: (1) the grading of a new 2.3 hectare (5.76 acre) grenade range on the Live Fire Range near Site 24, (2) the expansion (12.6 hectare, 31 acres) of a storage/salvage yard area south of the existing Sandia Compound, (3) the construction of a new “turn-around” road on top of Bill’s Hill at Site 51, and (4) the construction of a missile launch pad and access road on the “Sidewinder Tuff” southeast of Antelope Lake (Figure 1). Pedestrian surveys were conducted at the flagged locations of all of these four undertakings to determine the potential effects of these undertakings on any historic properties. Those pedestrian surveys revealed a small concentration of three primary (core reduction) flakes (26Ny12151) in the proposed grenade range, two small rock cairns (IS020205LP1 and IS020205LP2) in the area proposed for the storage yard extension south of the Sandia Compound and a crushed juice can (IS020305LP1) and metal sign (IS020305LP2) in the area proposed for the missile launch pad (Table 1). None of these cultural resources are recommended to qualify for nomination as historic properties to the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP) under 36CFR60.4. Consequently, it is recommended that the four proposed undertakings will have no effect on historic properties.

Table 1. Cultural resources and isolated artifacts found during the survey of the four areas proposed for undertakings.

Cultural Resource	Description	Recommended NRHP Eligibility
26Ny12151	Three primary (core reduction) flakes	Not Eligible
IS020205LP1	Rock Cairn	Not Eligible
IS020205LP2	Rock Cairn	Not Eligible
IS020305LP1	Crushed juice can	Not Eligible
IS020305LP2	Sheet metal “Test in Progress” sign	Not Eligible

Project Descriptions and Environmental Settings

Grenade Range

The 2.3 hectare (5.76 acre) area proposed for the new grenade range is situated in the NE¼ of Section 25, R. 46 E., T. 2 S. immediately adjacent to the existing Live Fire Range near Site 24 (Figure 2). This grenade range will be approximately 50 m (150 ft) wide and 460 m (1,500 ft) long. It will run at an azimuth of about 45° along a northeast facing rocky alluvial fan between the existing rifle range west of Site 24 and a low (1,936 m; 6,353 ft) foothill of the Cactus Range. Substrate is a pebbly sandy loam with no desert pavement. Vegetation is a mosaic of desert thorn (*Lycium*