

PUBLIC NOTICE
DEPARTMENT AIR FORCE USE OF DEPARTMENT ARMY CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
FOR MULTIPLE PROJECTS at CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO

From March 15, 2025 to May 1, 2025, multiple projects on Cannon Air Force Base have adopted Categorical Exclusions (CATEX) from other agencies as part of their Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP). Air Force EIAP was conducted on the projects in accordance with 32 CFR Part 989 to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Air Force regulations. Pursuant to NEPA, the use of a CATEX may be appropriate where an agency has determined an action falls within a category of actions that a federal agency has determined normally does not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Agencies may rely on CATEXs promulgated by the agency itself, or those promulgated by other agencies adopted pursuant to 42 USC §4336c. On 25 Nov 24, the Air Force published in the Federal Register (89 FR 92911) its identification and adoption of a range of other agencies CATEXs.

The Department of the Army CATEX described in Appendix B to 32 CFR Part 651, Section II, paragraph (c)(1) *“Construction of an addition to an existing structure or new construction on a previously undisturbed site if the area to be disturbed is no more than 5.0 cumulative acres of new surface disturbance. This does not include construction of facilities for the transportation, distribution, use, and disposal of solid waste, medical waste, and hazardous waste”* was used for the following projects:

- Construct Beamed Concrete Pad and Covered Storage Site for Generator Maintenance
- Melrose Air Force Range RCS Controlled Access Fence
- Concrete Pad for Building 4609
- Concrete Pad for Building 4610
- Repair/ Move ARMAG for Building 155-850
- Add/ Alter Security Forces Facility (Building 575)
- Install Power and Cell Phone Antenna

The Department of the Army CATEX described in Appendix B to 32 CFR Part 651, Section II, paragraph (c)(2) *“Demolition of non-historic buildings, structures, or other improvements and disposal of debris, therefrom, or removal of a part thereof for disposal, in accordance with applicable regulations, including those regulations applying to removal of asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead based paint, and other special hazard items”* was used for the following project:

- Gate 2B 8502 SF End of Lifecycle for Buildings 799 and Buildings 2112

The Department of the Army CATEX described in Appendix B to 32 CFR Part 651, Section II, paragraph (c)(3) *“Road or trail construction and repair on existing rights-of-ways or on previously disturbed land”* was used for the following projects:

- Construct Sidewalk at Parking Lot for Building 1408
- Construct Road and Sidewalk from Hangar 109 to Parking Lot
- Melrose Air Force Range Route Maintenance and Repair
- Smokey Sam Culvert Placement at Melrose Air Force Range
- Culvert Install on North Alpha at Melrose Air Force Range

The Department of the Navy CATEX described in 32 CFR Part 775.6, paragraph (f)(45) “*Natural resources management actions undertaken or permitted pursuant to agreement with or subject to regulations by Federal, State or local organizations having management responsibility and authority over the natural resources in question, including, but not limited to, prescribed burning, invasive species actions, timber harvesting, and hunting and fishing during seasons established by State authorities pursuant to their State fish and game management laws. The natural resource management actions must be consistent with the overall management approach of the property as documented in an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) or other applicable natural resource management plan.*” was used for the following projects:

- Removal of Prairie Dogs from Cannon Air Force Base
- Removal of Prairie Dogs from Melrose Air Force Range

Procedurally this Environmental Impact Analysis was developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended by Public Law 118-5, Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), the DAF’s Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 989), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of NEPA (40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508) of July 2024. Executive Order (E.O.) 14154 of January 20, 2025, Unleashing American Energy, revoked E.O. 11991, Enhancement of Environmental Quality, which amended E.O. 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality. While CEQ has provided notice that it intends to rescind the CEQ NEPA regulations, the Department of the Air Force has accepted in this instance CEQ’s suggestion to voluntarily rely on the CEQ Regulations to allow for timely decision-making to meet critical mission requirements.

A review of the proposed projects and methods for construction and operation resulted in no anticipated adverse effects to the environment. The project will not affect wetlands, floodplains, or other sensitive habitats or have any effect on federally listed threatened or endangered species. The projects were reviewed by the installation’s environmental program managers who determined no project listed will adversely affect air quality, hazardous waste removal, human safety/ occupational health, restoration efforts and land use. The analysis and findings have been documented on an Air Force Form 813 as required by the Air Force EIAP process.

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