

Nellis Air Force Base (NAFB) is continuing consultation on the Northern Hub Development Project, a federal undertaking to develop a water facility at the Tolicha Peak Electronic Combat Range (TPECR) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Compound, in accordance with Section 106 (54 U.S.C. § 306108) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). A Class III inventory of the footprint of physical disturbance was conducted by a Secretary of the Interior (SoI) qualified archaeologist, and eligibility recommendations were made by the archaeological contractor. Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(g), NAFB has requested expedited consultation from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), including determination of the area of potential effects (APE), identification and evaluation of historic properties, and determination of effects. If the SHPO agrees, NAFB will extend the timeframe allowed for comment by Tribes or the public if such a request is received.

The purpose of the undertaking is to install an additional water well, treatment facilities, and supporting infrastructure near the TPECR O&M compound and salvage yard. Currently, there is one well, which is the sole source of water for fire suppression, construction use, and domestic use. The well is approximately 40 years old and is prone to failure. In addition, the current well draws close to state water draw limits from the Sarcobatus Flat 146 aquifer. In order to provide for redundancy in case of well failure, as well to anticipate rising demand and provide for any future development, NAFB seeks to install an additional well that draws from the adjacent Gold Flat 147 aquifer.

The area of physical disturbance where the drilling, construction, and staging will take place is approximately 200 acres (1,930 ft by 4,650 ft). The well will be constructed within the southern half of this area, which is part of the Gold Flat 147 aquifer, and preferentially as far north within this section as possible. Given that the maximum height of any structures built as part of the undertaking will be one story, and considering limits to the viewshed posed by topographical obstructions to the southwest and by the built environment of the O&M compound to the south and the salvage yard to the north, a buffer of 0.5 mile surrounding the area of physical disturbance was determined to be sufficient to account for visual effects. Auditory and atmospheric effects are expected to be minimal and restricted to the duration of construction activities. NAFB has therefore determined the direct APE to include the 200-acre footprint of construction activities and ground disturbance, in addition to a 0.5-mile buffer around this area to account for visual, auditory, atmospheric, and cumulative effects, as shown below. This APE is located in Sections 13-14 and 23-26 of Township 7 South, Range 46 East on the Tolicha Peak, NV (1986) USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map. In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(1), NAFB has requested SHPO concurrence on the APE as defined above.

A Class III pedestrian survey of the 200-acre parcel where ground disturbing activities will occur was conducted by Environmental Assessment Services (EAS). The inventory resulted in the identification of nine new precontact archaeological sites (**Table 1**) and six isolated finds. Additionally, seven previously recorded sites were revisited, five of which were updated and 2 of which were not relocated (**Table 2**). EAS recommended all nine newly recorded sites not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Of the five previously recorded sites they were able to relocate, EAS agreed with all previous eligibility determinations and recommended one previously unevaluated site (26NY8783) not eligible. However, the contractor

incorrectly stated that site 26NY9301 is not eligible for listing in the NRHP; after a previous site update in 1996, it was determined eligible with SHPO concurrence on 1 July 1996.

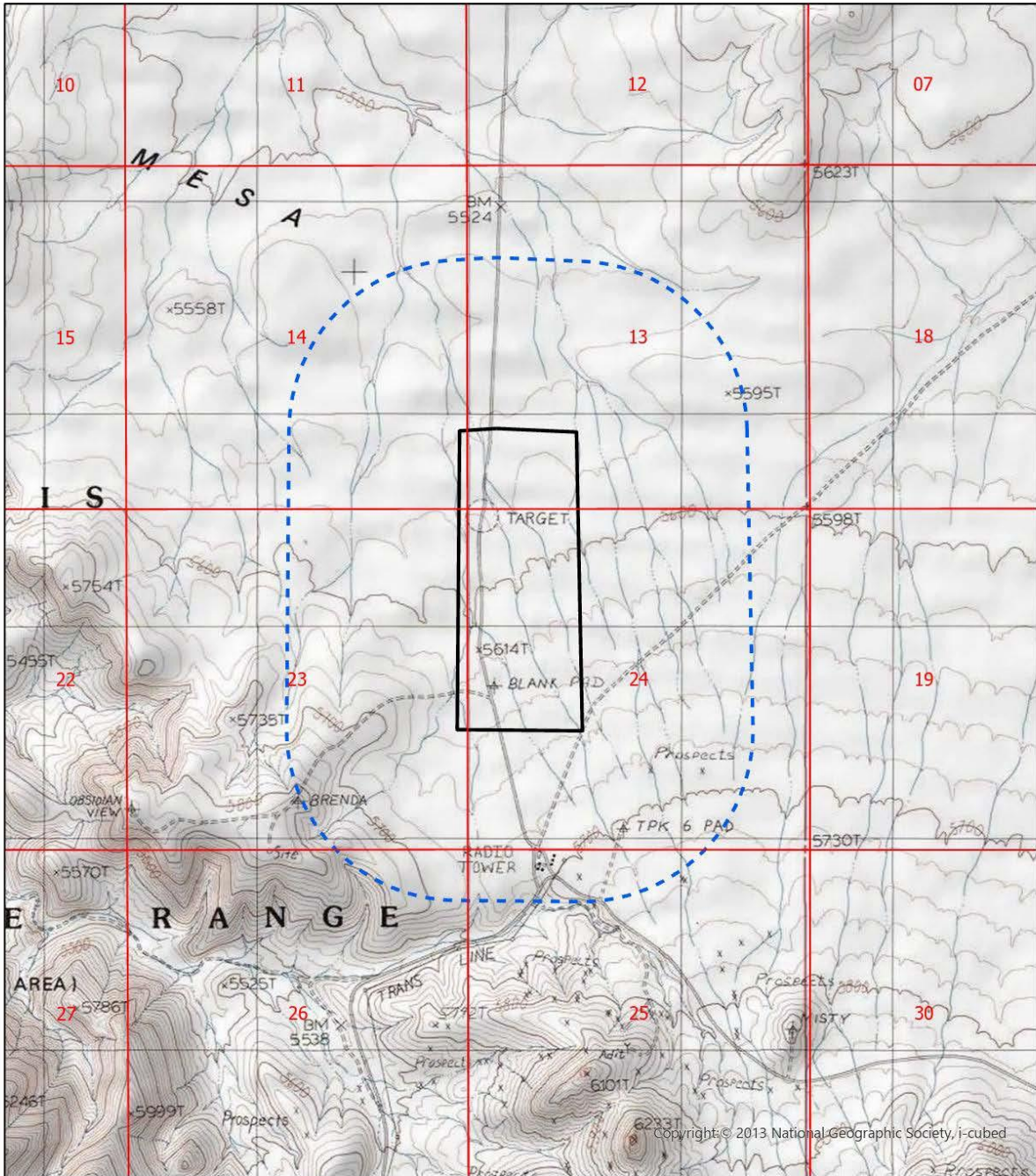
NAFB agrees with all contractor eligibility recommendations with the exception of site 26NY9301. Based on the most recent site report, NAFB disagrees with the previous determination that the site is NRHP eligible. However, given that the contractor only revisited the small portion of the site within the survey parcel, NAFB has determined that the site should be considered unevaluated until such time as a full site update can be completed and the site can be reevaluated. The current eligibility determinations by NAFB for all sites within the survey parcel are summarized below. Isolated finds are not listed, as they are categorically not NRHP eligible. In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.4(c)(2), NAFB has requested SHPO concurrence on these determinations of eligibility.




**Table 1.**  
**Newly Recorded Archaeological Sites**

<b>Site Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>NAFB Eligibility Determination</b>
26NY19275	Lithic Scatter ( <i>n</i> = 3)	Not Eligible
26NY19276	Lithic Scatter ( <i>n</i> = 37)	Not Eligible
26NY19277	Lithic Scatter ( <i>n</i> = 6)	Not Eligible
26NY19278	Lithic Scatter ( <i>n</i> = 5)	Not Eligible
26NY19279	Lithic Scatter ( <i>n</i> = 8)	Not Eligible
26NY19280	Lithic Scatter ( <i>n</i> = 4)	Not Eligible
26NY19281	Lithic Scatter ( <i>n</i> = 110)	Not Eligible
26NY19282	Lithic Scatter ( <i>n</i> = 25)	Not Eligible
26NY19283	Lithic Scatter ( <i>n</i> = 3)	Not Eligible

**Table 2.**  
**Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites**

<b>Site Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Previous NRHP Eligibility</b>	<b>NAFB Eligibility Determination</b>
26NY1412	Lithic Scatter	Unevaluated	<i>Not relocated</i>
26NY8783	Lithic Scatter	Unevaluated	Not Eligible
26NY9122	Lithic Scatter	Eligible (D)	Eligible (D)
26NY9137	Lithic Scatter	Eligible (D)	Eligible (D)
26NY9300	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
26NY9301	Lithic Scatter	Eligible (D)	Unevaluated
26NY14713	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	<i>Not relocated</i>



-  APE
-  Footprint of Physical Disturbance
-  PLSS Section Grid

**Direct APE**  
**USGS 7.5' Quadrangle:**  
**Tolicha Peak, NV**  
**(1986)**  
**T7S R46E**



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There are an additional 16 previously recorded resources which lie within the APE, but outside of the 200-acre survey parcel where ground-disturbing activities will occur. The corresponding site trinomials, descriptions, current NRHP status, and SHPO concurrence dates are given in **Table 3**.

The small portions of NRHP eligible sites 26NY9122 and 26NY9137 and unevaluated site 26NY9301 that lie within the 200-acre footprint of the undertaking will be avoided and monitored by an SoI-qualified archaeologist during construction activities in the immediate vicinity. No other sites within that 200-acre parcel are NRHP eligible. Visual, auditory, atmospheric, and cumulative impacts resulting from facilities and infrastructure construction will not adversely affect any aspects of integrity that communicate the historical or archaeological significance of eligible sites, considering that all eligible sites qualify for nomination to the NRHP under Criterion D. Nor will such impacts preclude any unevaluated sites from potentially being determined NRHP eligible at a later date, as most such sites would also qualify under Criterion D, if at all. The one unevaluated site that may qualify under a Criterion other than D is 26NY11489, the potential precontact burial. However, this site is already protected by a fence that was erected in 2001. It is also directly adjacent to the TPECR O&M compound, whereas the current undertaking would be located at least 310 meters away. Therefore, any visual effects on 26NY11489 from the undertaking in question would be minimal and would not substantially change the current setting or feeling of the site. Accordingly, NAFB has determined that the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties and has requested SHPO concurrence on this determination, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b).

**Table 3.**  
**Previously Recorded Resources Outside Survey Parcel**

<b>Site Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>NRHP Eligibility</b>	<b>SHPO Concur Date</b>
26NY1399	Lithic Scatter and Prospect Pit	Eligible (D)	8 April 1996
26NY4349	Isolate	Not Eligible	N/A
26NY9123	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	27 June 1995
26NY9124	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	27 June 1995
26NY9125	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	27 June 1995
26NY9127	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	27 June 1995
26NY9128	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	27 June 1995
26NY9136	Mining Cairns	Not Eligible	27 June 1995
26NY9138	Lithic Scatter	Eligible (D)	27 June 1995
26NY9772	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	1 July 1996
26NY9844	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	22 February 1996
26NY9845	Mining Cairn	Not Eligible	22 February 1996
26NY11469	Lithic Scatter and Possible Storage Pit	Unevaluated	10 March 2003
26NY11471	Habitation Site	Unevaluated	10 March 2003
26NY11488	Lithic Scatter	Unevaluated	10 March 2003
26NY11489	Possible Precontact Burial	Unevaluated	10 March 2003

Initial consultation letters regarding the Northern Hub Development Project were sent to the 16 federally recognized Native American Tribes with whom NAFB consults and to one interested member of the general public on 24 January 2023. A consultation letter on this matter was sent to the 16 Tribes in September 2024. Additionally, this project was discussed at the annual Native American Program (NAP) Meeting on 24 October 2023; again in a meeting in Lone Pine, California on 6 August 2024, which included representatives from the Big Pine Paiute Tribe, the Bishop Paiute Tribe, the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, and the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe; in monthly phone calls made to Tribal points-of-contact; and will be addressed again at the 2024 NAP Meeting on 22 October.

Feedback has been received in the form of a letter from the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, as well as in verbal feedback from Tribes during the two aforementioned meetings. The primary request has been to have Native American Tribal Cultural Specialists (TCS) / Monitors present during the inventory and undertaking. Invitations for TCSs to monitor construction will be extended on a voluntary basis when work is underway. If no TCSs are able to attend, an SoI-qualified archaeologist will provide all Tribes with a monitoring report including photographs.

Most additional public scoping for this project will be conducted through the NEPA process, via an environmental assessment.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this undertaking, please contact the Cultural Resources Program at Nellis Air Force Base via email at [99ces.culturalresources@us.af.mil](mailto:99ces.culturalresources@us.af.mil).