



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#: NV-2020-009

Proposed Action Title: Offsite Seismic Monitoring Operations

Program or Field Office: NNSA Nevada Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Battle Mountain, NV; Darwin, CA; Marysvale, UT; Nelson, NV; Tonopah, NV

Proposed Action Description

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO) Management and Operations Contractor (M&O) maintains seismic monitoring stations at mines in the Nevada National Security Site region (California, Nevada, & Utah). While various sites were used from the 1960s through the 1990s these five sites are the only ones that have been maintained continuously and are still being maintained to date. There is an ongoing mission need to maintain monitoring capabilities at these sites for the purpose of continuity of data collection for comparable analysis, transparency and verification monitoring under current program needs and potential future use as part of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Program.

The M&O would continue to conduct seismic monitoring at existing sites including Darwin, California; Tonopah, Nevada; Battle Mountain, Nevada; Nelson Mine, Utah; and Marysvale, Utah; for an indefinite period of time.

The seismometers are wired to an electrical powered digitizer which telemeters data through a modem over phone lines to the North Las Vegas Facility. Trouble-call site visits have averaged about two visits per year at each location and would consist of checking on the integrity of the station, or to replace any equipment that has failed or would be upgraded.

The stations that would be used are: Battle Mountain Nevada, Lucky Day Mine; Darwin California, Anaconda Mine; Marysvale Utah, Marysvale Peak; Nelson Nevada, TAV12A, BLM; Tonopah Nevada, Gypsy Queen Mine.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied

10 CFR 1021- B-3.1-Geological (seismic) monitoring

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.



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To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, DOE shall determine the following:

- (1) The proposal fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D;
- (2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, include the following conditions as integral elements of the classes of actions. To fit within the classes of actions in Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

NEPA Compliance Officer Determination

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under NNSA NAP 451.1 and DOE P 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action and I have reviewed the proposal for integral elements. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances present and that the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Carrie Stewart

Date Determined: 01/30/2020