



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: Nye County Scientific Investigations and Groundwater Evaluation (NV-2012-005)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), Nye County NV

Proposed Action Description:

Nye County scientific investigation activities proposed for area 25 on the NTS include the continuation of manual water level measurements, continuation of routine well site maintenance, and distributed temperature sensing at Nye County Site 22. The Groundwater Evaluation project field activities are limited to water sampling that Nye County is performing under NNSA grant DE-FG52-06NA27205, Nye County Groundwater Evaluation, awarded on April 7, 2006. Modification 006, dated April 1, 2010, extended the performance period to April 6, 2014. The Nye County Scientific Investigation project will be funded through a separate source, with a timeline constrained by the Operational end date defined in the subject REOP.

Independent Scientific Investigations: Nye County plans to continue measurements of depth-to-water at 8 wells on Nye County well sites NC-EWDP-10, NC-EWDP-22, NC-EWDP-18, and NC-EWDP-23 on an approximately monthly basis. Nye County has agreed to take over the monitoring effort of 6 additional wells formerly monitored by the US Geological Survey. The additional wells will be monitored on an approximately quarterly basis. Nye County personnel will follow Nye County Technical Procedure TP-9.9, Measurement of Groundwater Levels Using Electric Well Sounders.

For distributed temperature sensing, Nye County will install a distributed temperature perturbation sensor {DTPS} system in the wells at Site 22 and collect temperature data while pumping the main pump well. Equipment required for DTPS work includes fiber-optic cables, heater wires, distributed temperature sensor logging unit, generator set, submersible pump, and climate-controlled equipment trailer.

Groundwater Evaluations:

Nye County, in cooperation with Desert Research Institute, is planning to pump and sample several wells on the NTS for various parameters including: major anions and cations, selected isotopes (oxygen, nitrogen, carbon, etc.), tritium, strontium, and noble gases. The majority of the wells will be pumped using a portable reel-mounted pump system. Wells with a water level deeper than approximately 850 ft will require the use of a bailer or dedicated submersible pump.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR Part 1021 - B.3.1 - Site Characterization/Environmental Monitoring, sampling/monitoring groundwater

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. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451. 1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action and that other-regulatory requirements set forth above are met. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.