



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: Offsite Seismic Monitoring Operations (NV-2014-018)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Various non-NNSS locations in Nevada, Utah and California

Proposed Action Description:

National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), Defense Experimentation and Stockpile Stewardship (DE&SS) has maintained seismic monitoring stations at mines in the NTS region (California, Nevada, & Utah). While various sites were used from the 1960s through the 1990's 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.

DE&SS 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 NLVF. Trouble-call site visits have averaged about two visits per year at each locatio11 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 (new)
Tonopah Nevada, Gypsy Queen Mine

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

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

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.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Linda Cohn

Date Determined: 4/15/2014