



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: UNR Telemetry and Data Collection (NV-2016-007)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

The Nevada Seismological laboratory (NSL) maintains radio communications to eight seismograph stations on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). The stations are used for regional earthquake response and monitoring, and are distributed within and across the NNSS. Radio communications systems are mounted on towers to provide line-of-site links to seismograph stations and to establish a communications path to transmit that data to the NSL Data Center in Reno, NV.

The NSL maintains real-time data communications links to the Source Physics Experiment (SPE) seismic array in northern Yucca Flat (managing approximately 450 channels of seismic data) in support of the SPE project data collection and data management. These data are transmitted to the primary communications systems located at NNSS tower sites where they are integrated with other seismic data collected on the NNSS and also delivered in real-time to the NSL Data Center.

Personnel from the University of Reno (UNR) would maintain real-time NNSS area seismograph stations, telemetry systems, local earthquake catalog and continuous data archive. Routine maintenance checks would include battery checks and/or replacement and/or repair. Broadband instrumentation would also be installed on the SPE geophone and broadband sensor lines. Sites would be accessed via established paved, graveled, or dirt roads. No off-road travel is anticipated during these activities.

Approximately ten additional Seismic Network Stations would be installed in the Rock Valley area (Area 25) of the NNSS. Data from these stations would be incorporated in the telemetry system and archived at the Data Center. These new stations would require a hole to be dug into the ground/soil and a small box (or vault) emplaced to house a seismometer.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR Part 1021 – B3.1 Site Characterization and environmental 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: 1/11/2016