



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: SNL Seismic Monitoring (NV-2017-051)

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

Seismic monitoring of existing sensors is conducted for Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) personnel in various areas of the Nevada National Nuclear Site (NNSS) by NSTec field crews. This is done to monitor general seismicity for transparency issues and for specific projects such as the Source Physics Experiments (SPE), Deeply Buried and Hardened Targets projects, and Underground Nuclear Explosion Signatures Experiments (UNESE) among others. Monitors have been installed to record ground motion, both natural and manmade. Monitoring may be conducted during mining and drilling activities, large scheduled explosives tests, and during all sub-critical experiments. Monitoring would also be conducted during any aftershock period following a Magnitude 3.0 or larger earthquake where the epicenter is determined to be within the NNSS boundaries.

Currently there are 9 semi-permanent stations, located around the perimeter of the NNSS, operated in conjunction with the University of Nevada Reno monitoring general seismicity. There are 8 long term stations, located in Area 27 at Rock Valley, that are being used to monitor seismicity. There is also a permanent monitoring station located in Area 6 at DAF.

Current stations are sited within 100 ft of an existing passable road. Sensors are monitored by workers walking off-road. There would be no off-road driving and no surface disturbances as a result of monitoring activities.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

10 CFR 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: Carrie Stewart

Date Determined: July 11, 2017