



National Nuclear Security Administration Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



NEPA ID#: HEDLP 15-001-001

Proposed Action Title: Off-site Seismic Monitoring

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), Nye County NV; other locations in Nevada, Utah, and California

Proposed Action Description:

The M&O for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Defense Experimentation and Stockpile Stewardship (DE&SS) maintains seismic monitoring stations at mines in the NNSS 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 transmit data directly to the NLVF. 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, B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring (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: Carrie Stewart

Date Determined: August 2, 2017