



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#: NV-2025-022

Proposed Action Title: Offsite Seismic Monitoring Operations – CA, NV, UT

Program or Field Office: Nevada Field Office

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

Proposed Action Description

The NNSA/NFO Management and Operating (M&O) Contractor maintains seismic monitoring stations at mines in the Nevada National Security Site region (California, Nevada, and Utah). While various sites were used from the 1960s through the 1990s, the four sites listed below 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.

The M&O Contractor would continue to conduct seismic monitoring at existing sites, including Darwin, California; Tonopah, Nevada; Battle Mountain, Nevada; and Marysvale, Utah; for an indefinite period of time.

The seismometers are wired to a seismic digitizer, which telemeters data over microwave link or satellite link to the University of Nevada – Reno Seismological Laboratory. Trouble-call site visits would be expected to average about two visits per year at each location. These visits would consist of checking on the integrity of the station and/or replacement/upgrade of equipment.

This checklist is for the monitoring and maintenance of existing equipment using existing roads. If future activities involve ground disturbance or intrusive work, these activities would need to be evaluated under a separate checklist and would require a biological and cultural resource review.

The stations that would be used are:

- Darwin California, Anaconda Mine
 - Tonopah Nevada, Gypsy Queen Mine
 - Battle Mountain Nevada, Lucky Day Mine
 - Marysvale Utah, Marysvale Peak
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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied

10 CFR 1021: Appendix B, B-3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring

For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, and also Section 5.4 (Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal) and Appendices B and C of the DOE National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025).



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To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, DOE shall determine the following:

- (1) The proposal fits within one or more classes of actions listed in Appendix B and C of the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures;
- (2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. However, segmentation does not include proposals that are developed and potentially implemented over multiple phases where each phase results in a decision whether to proceed to the subsequent phase; and
- (3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that indicate a normally excluded agency action is likely to have a reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effect.

The classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B, include the following conditions as integral elements of the classes of actions. To fit within the classes of actions in Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

NEPA Compliance Officer Determination

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under NNSA NAP 451.1 and DOE P 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action and I have reviewed the proposal for integral elements. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances present and that the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Therefore, the application of a categorical exclusion is appropriate.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Patricia Gallo

Date Determined: September 24, 2025