

U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office

RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION¹

Description of Proposed Action

Performance of a three-dimensional seismic survey line on approximately 2,409 acres contained within the WIPP Land Withdrawal Area as part of a larger survey to determine whether hydrocarbons are present in the region in quantities that warrant extraction and development.

Number and Title of Applicable Categorical Exclusion

B3.1 Site Characterization/Environmental Monitoring

Activities covered by this Categorical Exclusion include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, and radar), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, including the establishment of survey marks.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

- (1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D

For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements: i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:

- (1) Threaten a violation of statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders
 - (2) Require siting, construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities;
 - (3) Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum/natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or
 - (4) Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)).²
- (2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) The proposal is not “connected” to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211

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 DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review

Original Signature on File

Signature
NEPA Compliance Officer, Carlsbad Field Office

Date

¹ May be incorporated in its entirety into other environmental review records.

² All reviews and discussions supporting the “not adversely affect” determination have been completed.