

SECTION A. Project Title: NSTR Seismic Station Installation

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

The proposed action installs a new seismic station near the National Security Test Range (NSTR). The new seismic station would include a "seismic vault," which consists of a 4-foot diameter culvert buried a few inches into the ground. The project will pour concrete on the bottom of the vault to give a solid and flat bottom. Various instruments (seismometer, accelerometer and/or infrasound sensor) would then be fastened to the concrete pad. The digitizer, batteries and other electrical components would also be housed within the culvert.

In addition, the proposed action installs an 8-foot mast for supporting solar panel, radios and antenna. A standard Ubiquiti 2.4 GhZ radio and antenna will be installed to provide communication with the instrument. Data collected will be transmitted to the Seismic Monitoring Program data collection server in Idaho Falls.

Figure 1 shows the area proposed for installation of the new seismic station. Installation may result in fugitive dust emissions.



Figure 1. Map showing proposed location of the new seismic station near the NSTR.

Data will be used to measure and verify explosions from the NSTR. The 2007 "Final Environmental Assessment for the National Security Test Range and Finding of No Significant Impact Environmental Assessment" (DOE/EA-1557) modeled ground motions and noise levels at several key locations from detonations up to 20,000-lb TNT. The report demonstrated that peak ground motions and noise levels will be within acceptable ranges. While many detonations have been measured across the existing INL seismic network, the addition of this station near the range, will allow for further verification.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

The proposed action has the potential to generate localized fugitive dust during installation.

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

NA

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Cultural: A Section 106 review was completed under CRMO project number (BEA-25-006) and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected. Refer to Hold Points / Project Specific Instructions.

Generating and Managing Waste

When wastes are generated, how they are disposed can adversely affect the environment. Managing wastes appropriately and responsibly and implementing recycling or reuse practices, where feasible, during project activities can reduce the potential impact on the environment.

Releasing Contaminants

When chemicals are used during the project there is the potential for spills that could impact the environment (air, water, soil).

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Project description indicates materials will need to be purchased or used that require sourcing materials from the environment. Being conscientious about the types of materials used could reduce the impact to our natural resources.

Environmental Justice

NA

SECTION D. Determine Recommended Level of Environmental Review, Identify Reference(s), and State Justification: Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

For Categorical Exclusions (CXs), the proposed action must not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, or similar requirements of Department of Energy (DOE) or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources (see 10 CFR 1021). In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist that would affect the significance of the action. In addition, the action is not "connected" to other action actions (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1608.27(b)(7)).

References: B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring"

Justification: Based on the purpose and need and description of the proposed action and potential environmental impacts, the proposed action fits within the class of actions that is listed in Appendix B CX B3.1. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)) and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Authorizing the proposed action will not (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive orders; (2) require siting of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; (4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources; or (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species.

B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring. Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools);Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; Aquifer and underground

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reservoir response testing; Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes); Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); Sampling of flora or fauna; and Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) Yes No

Approved by Robert Douglas Herzog, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 12/18/2024