

**RECORD OF NEPA REVIEW**

**Title:** Bayou Choctaw Cavern 102 Acquisition

**Description:** DOE prepared an environmental impact statement (DOE/EIS-0385, December, 2006) to assess the environmental impacts associated with a proposal to expand the crude oil storage capacity of the SPR to 1 billion barrels. The EIS included expansion at the existing Bayou Choctaw SPR site. DOE issued a Record of Decision (February, 2007) that included acquisition of an existing commercial storage cavern on the salt dome to increase capacity at Bayou Choctaw.

This Record of NEPA Review covers all activities associated with the acquisition of an existing 10 million barrel cavern from Petrologistics, which was previously used for ethane storage. Petrologistics will displace all ethane from the cavern with brine prior to cavern development. Project tasks include acquisition of cavern 102 from Petrologistics, retrofit the existing cavern well 102 well, drilling a new cavern well 102R re-entry well into the existing cavern 102, transfer of crude oil to the new Bayou Choctaw Cavern 102, and disposition of Bayou Choctaw Cavern 20.

I concur with the accuracy of the above brief descriptive task summary by my signature.

  
DM Description Concurrence

1/24/11  
Date

  
DOE Description Concurrence

1/24/11  
Date

**Regulatory Requirements**

**10 CFR 1021.410 (Application of Categorical Exclusions)**

(a) The actions listed in Appendices A and B of Subpart D are classes of actions that DOE has determined do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment (categorical exclusions).

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

- (1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B of Subpart D;
- (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" (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)) to other actions with potentially significant impact, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

**Appendix B (Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Specific Agency Actions)**

The proposed action must not:

- 1. Threaten a violation of statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
- 2. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions.
- 3. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and /natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or
- 4. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

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**Environmental Analysis:**

**Review Initiation Date:** 4/7/10

CA (Clean Air): N/A

CW (Clean Water): N/A

HW (Hazardous Waste): N/A

CS (Control of Toxics): N/A

PP (Pollution Prevention): N/A

Wetlands/ Floodplains: N/A

**Aspects/Requirements:**

Job consists of acquisition of Bayou Choctaw 102 and associated activities. Environmental concerns are addressed in the existing Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision, DOE-EIS-0385, Billion Barrel Expansion (December, 2006)

**Determination of NEPA**

NEPA review suggests this task is covered under an existing Environment Impact Statement, Environmental Assessment, or Supplement Assessment prepared for the operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. NEPA document to be applied: DOE-EIS-0385, Billion Barrel Expansion (December, 2006) and Record of Decision

NEPA review suggests an Environmental Assessment is required.

NEPA review suggests an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

L. C. Wesley  
DM NEPA Preparer

1/24/2011  
Date

Dave Jones  
DM Environmental Concurrence

1/24/11  
Date

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1) I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the action is hereby excluded from further NEPA review.

K. Boecker  
Approved by  
DOE NEPA Compliance Officer

1/24/2011  
Date