

RECORD OF NEPA REVIEW

Title: Richton Core Hole

Description: Subcontractor shall furnish all materials, tools, equipment, supplies, transportation, facilities, labor, supervision, and services required to conduct a coring to sample the likely entire cavern interval from caprock to approximately 1000 feet below the proposed floor of a typical cavern. The coring location will be on the proposed site location. The sample will be logged with state-of-the-art tools and concepts. Salt specimens will be preserved using known procedures for later mechanical and hydrological properties testing. The core hole will be preserved for monitoring purposes or plugged and abandoned.

The core hole is to be drilled in a minimum of three stages – overburden, caprock and salt to enable identification of lithology, structure, rock properties, presence of potash minerals, etc. Tests will include gamma ray, density, neutron, sonic (v_p and v_s), and caliper. Additional tests may include resistivity / induction, borehole image, spectral gamma, and multi-pad resistivity.

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


DM Description Concurrence

05/22/08
Date


BOE Description Concurrence

5/22/08
Date

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410

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

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.

(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

(3) The proposal is not "connected" (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)) to other actions with potentially significant impact and 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.

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Environmental Analysis:

Review Initiation Date: 5/22/08

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

MR (Mgmt and Report): NEPA review

Wetlands/ Floodplains: N/A

Aspects:

Job consists of subcontractor drilling a core hole at the Richton site. There are no environmental aspects associated with this work.

Determination of NEPA


NEPA document to be applied: DOE-EIS-0385, Billion Barrel Expansion (December 2006)

The Department of Energy has determined that this task is of the administrative nature and is therefore covered under the original Environment Impact Statement, Environmental Assessment, or Supplement Assessment prepared for the operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

NEPA review suggests an Environmental Assessment is required. (see attached _____)

NEPA review suggests an Environmental Impact Statement is required. (see attached _____)

NEPA review suggests this project is a Categorical Exclusion.



DM NEPA Preparer

5/22/08

Date


DM Environmental Concurrence

5/22/08

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.



Approved by
DOE NEPA Compliance Officer

5/22/08

Date