Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

ENDIX AND NUMBER:

site and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) 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, but are not limited to: information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom educational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

Rational for determination:

Ormat Nevada, Inc. would attempt to stimulate a privately owned non-productive geothermal well (well 27-15) in an existing field using various stimulation techniques to increase power generation at the existing Desert Peak power plant. The goal of this project is to engineer an Enhanced Geothermal System, which would provide geothermal fluid to increase the output of the existing Desert Power plant, delivering commercial electricity to a utility or other power consumers.

The project is divided into three phases with multiple tasks in each phase. Phase I/Budget Period 1: Feasibility Evaluation. A go/no-go decision would be made prior to Phase I activities suggesting that stimulation of well 27-15 would increase power generation at the Desert Peak power plant. The Recipient shall not continue into Phase II activities without written authorization from the DOE Contracting Officer. Should Phase II not be initiated, the Phase I Report and all review presentations shall serve as the final technical report for DOE purposes. Phase II/ Budget Period 2: Well Stimulation and Collection/Analysis of Stimulation Monitoring Data. Phase III/ Budget Period 3: Long-term testing of the system and reporting.

Ormat Nevada, Inc. indicates appropriate permits are in place for their geothermal development; any waste is handled in accordance with federal, state, and local regulation.

This project comprises of restoring production of an existing geothermal well using various techniques while gathering data, making evaluations and required monitoring, the categorized into CX A8, B3.1, and B5.12.

The following language in the award:

Note to Specialist:
THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

Non-signature of this memorandum constitutes a record of this decision.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Steve P Blazek
Date: 8/24/2009

MANAGER DETERMINATION

Field Office Manager review required

THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.

Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO:

Manager's Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________

Field Office Manager