

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CARSON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE

Other reviewers (As determined by the Field Office)
RESOURCE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

DATE

BLM Project Lead: Carla James, Supervisory Geologist Stillwater Field Office
Date: August 2, 2010

DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2010-002052-CX
File Code (Project/Serial Number): N88856

Define Proposed Action (who, what, where, when, how; include SOPS's and any specifications and/or requirements):

Magma Energy US Corp. submitted a Notice of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Resource Exploration Operations, file N88856. Magma proposes to use a standard rotary drilling rig will be used to drill 2, 10-inch, temperature gradient holes to a depth of 1,000 feet on existing roads in the Soda Lake project area on Magma's federal geothermal lease N-86870. According to Magma, this drill rig is able to maneuver on the existing roads in this part of the lease area. The rig will pull slightly off the road to allow for use of the road during drilling and an area will be cleared of brush for the equipment. There will be a 4 ft x 8ft x 3 ft deep sump for each TGH. It will be excavated with the backhoe. No well pad will be constructed and no road modifications are proposed. Make-up water for drilling will come from a Magma well on the adjacent private lands. The area will be reclaimed to near original as it was before drilling.

Field Office: Stillwater Field Office

Applicant: Magma Energy (US) Corp.

Legal Description (includes all BLM required map requirements): T20N, R28E, section 20 (Upsal Hogback 46-20 and 51-20)
This action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001); Reference and page number citation:

MIN-1; 1) Encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

Description of Proposed Action (attach 7.5 Location Map): project map attached.

Categorical Exclusion Reference 516 DM 11.9 (cite eligible action): B. Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Energy, (6) Approval of Notices of Intent to conduct geophysical exploration of oil, gas, or geothermal, pursuant to 43 CFR 3150 or 3250, when no temporary or new road construction is proposed.

SCREENING FOR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (516 DM 2, Appendix 2). The preparer and/or indicated specialist must verify that the Proposed Action does not:

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|--|-----------------------------|----|
| 2.1 Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety..... | Preparer | cf |
| 2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O. 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas..... | Preparer | cf |
| | Archeologist | cf |
| | Rec/Wild/VRM | cf |
| | Soils/Water/Air | cf |
| 2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources..... | Preparer | cf |
| 2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks..... | Preparer | cf |
| 2.5 Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects..... | Preparer | cf |
| 2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects..... | Preparer | cf |
| 2.7 Have a significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office..... | Archeologist | cf |
| 2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species..... | Botanist/Wildlife Biologist | cf |
| 2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment..... | Preparer | cf |
| 2.10 Have a disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations (E.O. 12898)..... | P&EC | cf |
| 2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (E.O. 13007)..... | Archeologist | cf |
| 2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and E.O. 13112)..... | Botanist | cf |

Other reviewers (As determined by the Field Manager):

RESOURCE	NAME	COMMENTS	SIGNATURE	DATE
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RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:

Carla James 8-10-10
Preparer

[Signature]
EC Initials

[Signature]
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist

DECISION: Based upon the review of this proposal, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the RMP, and does not require a NEPA analysis. It is my decision to implement the action, as described.

Approved By: Teresa J. Knutson 8-30-10

