

Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca District Office
Categorical Exclusion

HRFO (1000)

BRFO (3000)

District ()

LLNV-WO1000-2009-0018-CX

Date: February 23, 2009

Project Title: 2-D Geophysical Seismic Survey

Project Lead: Sheila Mallory

Applicant: Vulcan Power Company

File Code (43 CFR) :3250

Location: T. 28 N., R. 32 E., sections 26, 34, 36; T. 28 N., R. 33 E., section 30; T. 27 N., R. 32 E., sections 2, 10, 12, 14, 22, 24, 26

Lease/ Case File/ Serial #: NVN-079305

Description of Proposed Action: Vulcan Power Company is proposing to conduct a 2-D seismic geophysical survey. The survey would be conducted from March, 1 to May 31, 2009. Nine lines oriented north-south and eight lines oriented east-west totally approximately 225,883 feet of disturbance. The seismic lines would consist of 96 stations at 100 foot spacing. Lightweight cable (1/4 inch diameter), recording geophones that sit on the surface of the ground (2 inch diameter), and a lightweight recording unit every 6th station would be placed along the line. The impact or "source" vehicle would be a small Kubota RTV which would be driven overland (see attached photos). A Nitrogen spring which propels a 200 pound weight onto a stationary plate made of aluminum is attached to the Kubota. An impact would occur at each station (every 100 feet) along the line. The plate transfers a high frequency signal onto the surface of the ground and may leave a 1/4 inch depression. Every attempt would be made to make only one pass of the seismic equipment.

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed Action is subject to the:

Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan

Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plan

Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA and Associated Wilderness and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada RMP

(The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM Manual 1617.3).

Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Review: This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under:

43 CFR 46.210 DOI Implementation of NEPA of 1969, Listing of Departmental Categorical Exclusions (formerly 516 DM2 Appendix 1)

516 DM11.9, (BLM) B(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."

The Proposed Action has been reviewed to determine if any exceptions described in 43 CFR 46.215 Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances (See attached page)

Mitigation Measures/Remarks: See Attached

Reviewer (Environmental Coordinator)

(Signature)

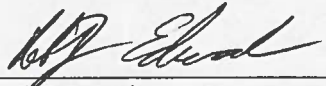
(Date)

Part III: DECISION: I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no other environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures identified above.

Remarks reserved for authorized officer:

Part III: DECISION: I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no other environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures identified above.

Remarks reserved for authorized officer:

Authorized Official  Date: 2/20/09
(Signature)

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities
See 43 CFR 4.401(a) Part 4 for general rules relating to procedures and practice involving appeals.

43 CFR 46.215

Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances

LLNV-WO 1020-2009-0016-CX

- | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (b) 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (h) 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (k) 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 (Executive Order 13007). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive 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 Executive Order 13112). |

All of the above questions must be answered negatively before the Categorical Exclusion may be approved. This checklist is taken from 43 CFR 46.215

Prepared By: Sheila Mallory Date February 24, 2009

Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca District Office

Field Office(s) : HRFO BRFO

Categorical Exclusion
Team Review

Applicant: Colado Project, LLC <i>Vulcan Power Company</i>
Proposal: 2-D Geophysical Seismic Survey
CX#:

Prepared By: Sheila Mallory

Date: February 24, 2009

<u>Name/Title</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
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Cameron McQuivey, Wildlife, T&E	<i>Cameron McQuivey</i>	<i>2-24-'09</i>
Patrick Haynal, Archaeology	<i>Patrick Haynal</i>	<i>2-24-09</i>

See attached Mitigation for Migratory Birds