Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Program or Field Office: Office of Legacy Management

Project Title and I.D. No.: Monitoring, maintenance, environmental and biological sampling, and administrative actions on Amchitka and Adak Islands, Aleutian Islands, Alaska. LM No.16-11.

Location: Amchitka and Adak Islands, Alaska

Proposed Action or Project Description:

This determination form provides the results of an evaluation of potential impacts related to various monitoring and maintenance actions on Amchitka Island and to non-routine collection of environmental and biological samples on and offshore of Amchitka and Adak Islands. DOE is committed to the collection of environmental and biological samples to test for radionuclides on a 5-year basis in order to demonstrate that food harvested from or near Amchitka Island is safe for human consumption. Biological collections from Adak Island would be used to establish background concentrations. Samples of fish, plants, and invertebrates would be collected by hand or using methods such as hook and line or gill nets. All marine samples would be collected in State waters within 2 miles of coastal areas. Anglers in skiffs or professional scuba divers would collect marine samples in deep water or intertidal areas. Various permits and authorizations apply to this project and either have been obtained or are being processed and will be in possession before collections begin. Existing roads or footpaths would be used to access all areas on Amchitka and Adak Islands. The proposed activities are expected to be completed within 6 weeks.

Monitoring and maintenance actions are related to inspections of earthen caps that cover either drill holes or mud pits related to the drill holes. The areas were remediated, and inspectors would be evaluating surfaces for cracks and the success of revegetation efforts.

General administrative actions that support typical site activities, such as gathering and processing information and awarding subcontracts, but that are also specific to the proposed project were also evaluated for potential impacts.

Only negligible environmental concerns were identified during the evaluation of these actions, and all actions were found to be categorically excluded from further evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3: Routine maintenance activities.
B1.28: Minor activities to place a facility in an environmentally safe condition.
B3.1: On-site and off-site characterization and environmental monitoring.
B3.8: Outdoor ecological and other environmental research.

*For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.

This action would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 of 10 CFR 1021.211.

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

Tracy A. Ribeiro — 06/02/2011

NEPA Compliance Officer: **Date Determined:**