

Attachment 10J (1)

Explanatory Note for U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) August 2, 2010

In accordance with the guidance provided by the Council of Environmental Quality, the USGS provides the following status report as required under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Section 1609(c) through June 30, 2010. During this reporting period, USGS obligated an additional \$44.8 million, bringing the total obligations to more than \$130 million. This increase in obligations responds to Secretary Salazar's challenge to "have people working on the ground on every single one of our projects by no later than June 30, 2010."

The USGS reported 96 % of the NEPA actions completed during the previous reporting period ending March 31, 2010. For this reporting period, an additional 72 projects were completed; the USGS has now completed 98 % of the NEPA determinations and projects completing all the remaining NEPA actions before the end of the next reporting period. At this time, there are 16 pending NEPA actions: one Environmental Assessment and 15 Categorical Exclusions.

Status of Pending EAs

The status of the pending EAs is as follows. These actions are carried over from the last report.

- Western Region - SITKA MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY - Correct Critical Safety Issues with Vault EA (Row 63): The final EA was signed on June 30, 2010.

Status of Pending CEs

The status of the 15 pending CEs is as follows. These actions are carried over from the last report.

- Removal of Discontinued Streamgages, Rows 73: The USGS has issued 736 CEs, 92 were withdrawn, and 10 CEs are pending. Vermont Historical Resources' request for archaeological and historical surveys is to be performed prior to their concurrence. Wisconsin State Historical Preservation Office also requested an archaeological survey, which is currently underway. Once these activities are performed, the NEPA determinations will be complete. The USGS anticipates all these actions will be categorically excluded and issued by the end of July 2010.
- Seismic and Volcanic Monitoring – Earthquakes, ANSS Replacement/Upgrade of Existing Seismograph Stations & Processing Centers, Line 77: The USGS issued 197 CEs, and 5 CEs remain "Pending" due to permitting concerns. As a result of permitting concerns, alternate locations are being sought.

Withdrawn Project

A total of 134 ARRA projects/activities have been withdrawn. In this reporting period, the USGS determined that the Eastern Region, Leetown Science Center project, Construct Earthen Dams, would not be addressed using ARRA funds. Row 19 of the Spreadsheet is changed on the spreadsheet to reflect the withdrawn actions.

Reinstated Project

The USGS reinstated one of the withdrawn projects under the Removal of Discontinued Streamgages, Row 72a, resulting in a decrease of withdrawn projects from 10 to 9. This project is issued a categorical exclusion and is accounted for in Row 72, resulting in an increase of completed projects from 90 to 91.

NEPA Benefits

Western Region - Steilacoom Warehouse & Storage Facility - Underground Tank Removal Categorical Exclusion (USGS Spreadsheet, page 2, row 64)

In the course of performing all the necessary research associated with this project, the USGS established a strong working relationship with the State of Washington Department of Ecology, the Department of Archeology and Historical Preservation, the Steilacoom Tribe, the Nisqually Tribe, and the Puyallup Tribe. These new relationships helped us to quickly move forward on the removal of the underground storage tank categorical exclusion, without any complications or additional concerns from the public.

###