

## **Attachment 10J(1)**

### **Explanatory Note for U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) February 1, 2011**

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 December 31, 2010.

The USGS continues to move towards completing all NEPA determinations. Currently, only one NEPA determination remains pending. We project completing this remaining NEPA determination before the end of the next reporting period.

#### **Status of Pending CEs**

The status of the pending Categorical Exclusion (CE) is as follows. This action carried over from the last report.

- **Removal of Discontinued Streamgages, Rows 73:** The USGS issued 729 CEs for the removal of discontinued streamgages. Only one CE remains "Pending." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) determined that the pending location in Vermont required mitigation in order to avoid sensitive habitats. Therefore, we continue to work closely with the FWS to determine the mitigations needed. Additionally, the initial archeological survey recommends a detailed survey to be conducted at this location. Once this determination is made, the CE may be issued.

#### **Changes in the Report**

To better reflect our progress, the contents in Row 77 were deleted, since there are no Pending CEs. The contents in Row 77a were moved to Row 77. As a result, Row 77a was deleted.