

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

### **Explanatory Note for U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) November 5, 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 September 30, 2010.

The USGS continues to move aggressively towards completing all NEPA determinations. Currently, only two NEPA determinations remain pending. We project completing these remaining NEPA determinations before the end of the next reporting period.

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

The status of the pending Categorical Exclusions (CEs) is as follows. These actions are 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 are currently working with the FWS to determine the mitigations needed. Once this determination is made, the CE may be issued. We anticipate the CE will be issued by the end of October, 2010.
- Seismic and Volcanic Monitoring – Earthquakes, ANSS Replacement/Upgrade of Existing Seismograph Stations & Processing Centers, Line 77a: The USGS issued 199 CEs, and one CE remains “Pending.” Since the landowner permitted the removal action on September 30, 2010, we will proceed with the CE issuance process. We anticipate the CE will be issued by the end of October, 2010.

#### **Withdrawn Project**

The USGS withdrew the following projects/actions:

- Row 71a: 13 “Abandonment of Discontinued Ground Water Wells”
- Row 72a: 2 “Removal of Discontinued Cableway Station”
- Row 73b: 16 “Removal of Discontinued Streamgage”

The withdrawn projects are reflected on the report. Listed are the primary reasons for withdrawn projects.

- Ownership of the project sites were transfer planned or completed;
- The projects were already removed / completed, but not documented at the time of the removal;
- Structure is owned by another entity (government or private ownership);
- Unable to locate; considered previously destroyed or removed by man or natural event; or

- Site has been reactivated, rehabilitated and reactivated, or may be reactivated in the future.

### **Changes in the Report**

Through our continued efforts to ensure we report the most accurate data. As a result, we have changed the report.

- Row 75 was changed from 261 to 260 CEs.
- Row 76 was changed from ANSS Replacement/Upgrade of Existing Deformation Monitoring Equipment with 365 CEs to ANSS Replacement/Upgrade of Existing Seismograph Stations & Processing Centers with 355 CEs.
- Row 77 was changed from ANSS Replacement/Upgrade of Existing Seismograph Stations & Processing Centers to ANSS Replacement/Upgrade of Existing Deformation Monitoring Equipment
- Row 77a was changed from ANSS Replacement/Upgrade of Existing Seismograph Stations & Processing Centers with 197 CEs to ANSS Replacement/Upgrade of Existing Deformation Monitoring Equipment with 199 CEs.

### **Other**

- Rows 44 and 56 - the NEPA status is “Done”, but environmental reviews and documents remain such as 106 or ESA consultation.

###