U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Department of Energy Grant for the City of Carlsbad Improvement of the Double Eagle Well Field

Program or Field Office: Carlsbad Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Carlsbad, Eddy and Lea Counties, NM

Proposed Action Description:

The City of Carlsbad owns and operates two separate ground water well fields that serve a broad range of users including residential, industrial, commercial, and agricultural customers. The Sheeps Draw Well Field currently serves as the primary source of water for the City, however the City is seeking to expand the Double Eagle system to offset the high demands and depletion of the Sheep Draw Well Field. The City has a total of 42 wells permitted by the New Mexico State Engineer in the Double Eagle Well Field. Of the 42 wells, 14 have not been drilled, and of the remaining 28 existing wells, 18 are currently operational. As the water wells are an integral part of the Double Eagle System, the City is requesting spending authority to utilize a portion of an existing DOE Infrastructure Grant toward improving the Double Eagle Well Field. The City has developed a three phase plan that will assess the wells, rehab non-operational wells, and drill and equip new wells. Phase I will assess and rehab six of the ten existing non-operational wells, and Phase II is comprised of replacing and equipping the four remaining non-operational existing wells. Phase III of the work will consist of drilling and equipping 14 new previously-permitted wells. An additional proposed improvement to the City's Double Eagle System is the design and installation of a remote-access monitoring system that will enable the City of have a 24 hour direct link to the wells, pump stations, reservoirs, and pressure stations on the Double Eagle system.
Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III of the proposed action are consistent with the actions covered by categorical exclusion B1.18 "Water supply wells". The City of Carlsbad commissioned a hydrology study of the Double Eagle Well Field and it was determined that pumping all permitted wells at full water rights capacity would result in an approximate 20% decline in yield over a 100 year period. Pumping all permitted wells at less

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

B1.7 - Electronic equipment

B1.18 - Water supply wells

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☑ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☑ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☑ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of 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.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Susan E. McCauslin Digitally signed by Susan E. McCauslin DN: cn=Susan E. McCauslin, o=U.S. DOE, CBFO, ou=NEPA Compliance Officer, email=susan.mccauslin@wipp.ws, c=US Date: 2013.02.11 08:45:30 -07'00'

Date Determined: 02/05/2013

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