

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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**Project Creator:** Edward Klimasauskas

**Field Office:** Stillwater

**Lead Office:**

**Case File/Project Number:** NVN-

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion**

516 DM 11.9: B. (5) Approval of Notices of Intent to conduct geophysical exploration of oil, gas, or geothermal, pursuant to 43 CFR 3150 or 3250, when no temporary or new road construction is proposed.

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-2011-C010-0527-CX

**Project Name:** AltaRock Inc. Passive Seismic Survey - Revision

**Project Description:** This is a revision to AltaRock Inc.'s previously approved seismic survey reflecting revised locations. The new proposal also differs in the manner of installation. Original site locations and installation were analyzed under DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0008-CX.

The new proposal is to conduct a passive seismic survey which will consist of 27 broadband seismometers installed over a broad area centered on Dixie Valley. Only 19 of these sites are located within the Stillwater Field Office, CCDO. The remaining 8 sites are located within the Winnemucca Field Office. The passive seismic survey is expected to last three months. Sites have been moved from the original proposal to be closer or adjacent to existing roads to mitigate overland travel.

Ground disturbance would be limited to holes for placement of the seismometers. For each site a hole no more than 36 inches in diameter and 42 inches deep will be dug by hand or small Bobcat excavator with a bucket no larger than 12 inches wide, the smallest available.

A container used to house the seismometer will be placed in the hole and cemented in place. The container will be covered with a removable tile and the entire unit backfilled to the surface. A cable will extend from the seismometer to the surface where it will be connected to a weatherproof box containing electronics, data logger, and battery. Solar panels used to recharge the battery would be mounted on top of the weatherproof box. The entire assembly would be mounted on two parallel horizontal pipes measuring approximately 7 feet long and 3 inches in diameter.

Access would be through existing roads or short stretches of overland travel. Following removal of the seismometers the remaining vaults would be buried in place beneath at least 12 inches of soil.

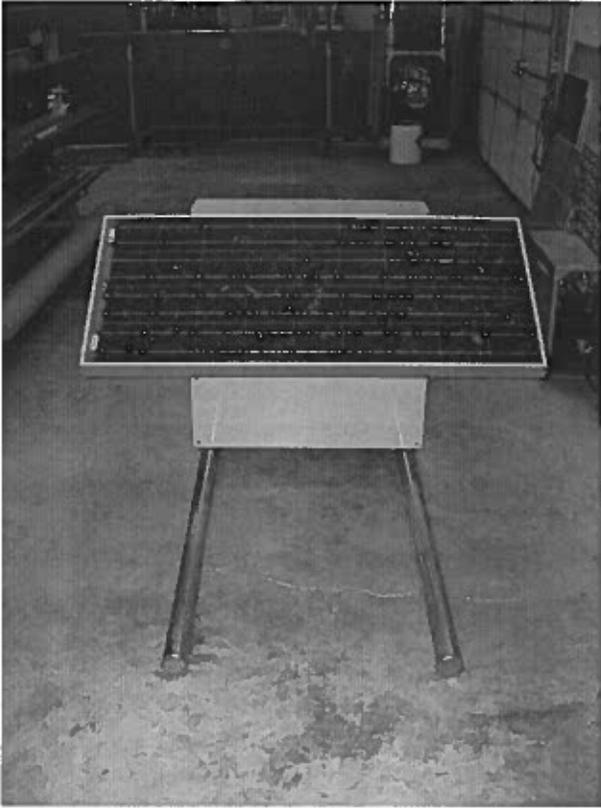
**Applicant Name:** AltaRock Inc.

**Project Location:** Dixie Valley and surrounding area

**BLM Acres for the Project Area: 1**

Land Use Plan Conformance: MIN-1: Encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

**Name of Plan:** Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)



Proposed weatherproof box located above seismic station.

**Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances:** The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria: (Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JD
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		JD 5-31-11 la DLD 6-2-11
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		JDZ
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		JDZ
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (PEC)		JDZ
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		JDZ
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (Archeology)		JDZ
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (Wildlife)		JD 5-31-11
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archeology)		JDZ JDZ
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		JDZ
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (Archeology)		JDZ
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JD

**SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:**

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Planning Environmental Coordinator, Steve Kramer: *SK*  
Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD*  
Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *DW*  
Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW*  
Archeology, Susan McCabe: *Susan McCabe*  
Water Quality, Gabe Venegas: *GV*  
Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *LA*

**CONCLUSION:** Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

*Teresa J. Knutson*      *06/06/11*  
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Teresa J. Knutson      (date)  
Field Manager  
Stillwater Field Office

Station ID No.	Station Status	Proposed Locations (WGS84)		Revised Stations ID No.	Type	Surveyed/NO Locations (WGS84)	
		Longitude	Latitude			Longitude	Latitude
A01	Permitted	-117.78200	39.93940	A01N <sup>1</sup>	Field Survey Change	-117.78205	39.93898
A02	Permitted	-117.78800	39.93280	A02N	Field Survey Change	-117.78802	39.93313
A03	Permitted	-117.77400	39.93290	A03N	Field Survey Change	-117.77370	39.93283
A04	Permitted	-117.82000	40.02660	A04N	Field Survey Change	-117.81210	40.01338
A05	Permitted	-117.74700	39.98750	A05NO <sup>2</sup>	Office Change <sup>2</sup>	-117.72181	39.99053
A06	Permitted	-117.73700	39.87020	A06NO	Office Change	-117.72405	39.87776
	Permitted			A06N	Field Survey, Alt	-117.73400	39.87355
	Permitted			A06N1	Field Survey, Alt	-117.73400	39.87355
A07	Permitted	-117.82000	39.79210	A06N2	Field Survey, Alt	-117.73187	39.87757
	Permitted			A07N	Field Survey	-117.84217	39.83530
A08	Permitted	-117.92400	39.85460	A08N	Field Survey	-118.14482	39.67488
A09	Permitted	-117.93400	40.01880	A09NO	Office Change	-117.92736	40.01530
A10	Permitted	-117.74500	40.10210	A10N	Field Survey	-117.75147	40.08528
A11	Permitted	-117.66271	39.92416	A11N	Field Survey	-117.65952	39.92693
	Permitted			A11N2	Field Survey, Alt	-117.66522	39.92828
A12	Permitted	-117.80562	39.71974	A12NO1	Office Change	-117.82476	39.73043
	Permitted			A12NO2	Office Change	-117.82398	39.73009
	Permitted			A12N3	Field Survey, Alt	-117.84003	39.73875
A13	Permitted	-117.91300	39.72290	A13N	Field Survey	-117.96893	39.72188
A14	Permitted	-118.01800	39.93280	A14N	Field Survey	-118.18510	39.99428
A15	Permitted	-117.92500	40.16980	A15N	Field Survey	-117.91812	40.16312
A16	Permitted	-117.76300	40.20850	A16N	Field Survey	-117.78172	40.21432
A17	Permitted	-117.59700	40.01070	A17N	Field Survey	-117.62360	40.03413
A18	Permitted	-117.69062	39.66947	A18N	Field Survey	-117.69272	39.66348
A19	Permitted	-117.88578	39.59477	A19N	Field Survey	-117.86032	39.58917
A20	Permitted	-118.21552	39.80897	A20N	Field Survey	-118.23405	39.80957
A21	Permitted	-118.01700	40.18990	A21NO	Office Change	-118.10586	40.11463
HYX	UNR Existing	-117.76330	39.77280	HYX	UNR Existing	-117.76330	39.77280
DIX	UNR Existing	-118.08220	39.80230	DIX	UNR Existing	-118.08220	39.80230

<sup>1</sup> "N" designates a seismic station relocated based on field survey conducted.

<sup>2</sup> "NO" designates office change to placement of the seismic station