

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 Lead:** Dan Erbes

**Field Office:** Sierra Front

**Lead Office:** Sierra Front

**Case File/Project Number:** N/A

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion** (cite section): Reference 516 DM 11.9 J. Other, (3) Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-2012-C020-0011-CX

**Project Name:** Additional Yerington Off-site Wells – Fall 2011

**Project Description:** Brown and Caldwell, on behalf of Atlantic Richfield, is requesting access to conduct monitor well drilling, installation and monitoring at the request of EPA at one (1) additional location on BLM managed lands over the next 6-months. Brown and Caldwell had recently requested and received approval to drill monitoring wells on public land at three (3) other sites during the Fall of 2011. The additional location will include one or more wells installed as a closely spaced cluster to minimize the total land disturbance. The monitoring well location is presented on the attached USGS topo maps at a scale of 1:24,000. Brown and Caldwell will access the drill site using existing roads. The proposed location will require ground disturbance (e.g. road building or drill pad construction) within 20- to 30-feet off of an existing road. Time to complete each borehole will be approximately 2 to 5 days depending on the location, depth and whether intermediate (zonal) water samples will be collected during the drilling process. Drilling will be completed in two phases: 1) an initial phase of drilling the deeper hole and conducting zonal sampling, and 2) a follow-up phase to install the shallower well with a second sonic drill or the bedrock well using the air rotary drill rig. Atlantic Richfield and Brown and Caldwell will need to continue accessing the completed monitor wells each month for water level measurements and once per quarter for sample collection. A 3 foot tall monument with 2' x 2' concrete pad will be the only permanent installation remaining at each monitor well location. The wells will remain locked at all times with keys managed by Brown and Caldwell. Well abandonment will be addressed under a separate action.

**Applicant Name:** Brown and Caldwell on behalf of Atlantic Richfield Company

**Project Location:** Within sec. 19 NESE, T. 14 N., R. 25 E., MDBM (see attached map).

**BLM Acres for the Project Area:** Total disturbance associated with this action and other similar past actions will remain less than 5 acres.

**Land Use Plan Conformance** (cite reference/page number): This action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001); Specifically to coordinate hazardous materials management with local, state and federal agencies (HAZ-2), and to provide for compliance with applicable pollution control laws, including state and federal air, water, or other pollution control standards, programs, or implementation plans (SWA-1).

**Name of Plan:** NV – Carson City RMP.

**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? (project lead/P&EC)		JCH
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? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		ADC MC PZ RC
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		JCH
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		JCH
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? (project lead/P&EC)		JCH
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		JCH
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? (archeologist)		RC
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 biologist, botanist)		PZ DT
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		JCH
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		JCH
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)? (archeologist)		RC
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)? (botanist)		DT

**SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:** During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

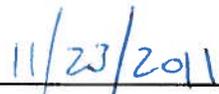
Jo Hufnagle, Realty Specialist  
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Niki Cutler, Hydrologist  
Rachel Crews, Archaeologist  
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife  
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants  
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

**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:

  
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Bryan Hockett  
Acting Field Manager  
Sierra Front Field Office

  
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(date)