

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST**

Mid-Pacific Region  
Lahontan Basin Area Office

**Project Name:** Pershing County WaterSMART Grant - Rye Patch Dam Geotechnical Investigations

**CEC Number:** LO – 2011-1016

**Cost Authority:** A10-1968-0006-PCW-NV-1-E

**Date:** February 28, 2012

**Exclusion Category:** *516 DM 14.5 B.3* – Data collection studies that involve test excavations for cultural resources investigations or test pitting, drilling, or seismic investigations for geologic exploration purposes where the impacts will be localized.

**Nature of Action:** LBAO is proposing to authorize geotechnical investigations on Reclamation withdrawn land below Rye Patch Dam.

The proposed geotechnical investigations will require boring two, 45 to 60-feet deep by 8-inches in diameter holes and a multi-channel analysis to depths of approximately 100-feet using seismic analysis methods. It is proposed, the holes be bored in the parking area near the outlet works of Rye Patch Dam. The holes will be back filled with a cement grout mix plug extending to the surface of the parking area.

The geotechnical investigation is subject to the following conditions:

1. The locations of the bore holes will be marked on the ground and the GPS locations provided to Reclamation. Once this information is provided, the locations cannot change without Reclamation approval. Site reviews may be required by Reclamations geotechnical and/or cultural resources staff members.
2. The bore holes will be backfilled with a cement grout with 5 percent by weight bentonite mix placed with a tremie pipe from the bottom to the top of the hole, and extending to the surface of the parking area. Reclamation geotechnical specialists will provide necessary mix requirements.
3. Construction activities shall meet all Federal, County, and Local standards and guidelines for construction safety. Underground utilities must be located and avoided.
4. Best Management Practices will be incorporated to prevent sediment runoff into the Humboldt River.

The proposed geotechnical investigation is anticipated to begin February 2012.

**Location:** The project site is located at Rye Patch Dam, Pershing County, Humboldt Project, Nevada.

NE1/4 NE1/4 S.18, T30N, R33E M.D.M

#### Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. (40 CFR 1502.3).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes__ |
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E) and 43 CFR 46.215 (c)].                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes__ |
| 3. This action will have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes__ |
| 4. This action would have significant impacts such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principle drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O.11990); floodplains (E.O. 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes__ |
| 5. The action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk (43 CFR 46.215 (d)).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes__ |
| 6. This action would establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes__ |
| 7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes__ |

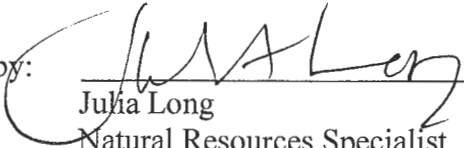
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau (in coordination with a Reclamation cultural resources professional, RM LND 02-01 D(1)(a)) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)).                                                   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 9. This action would 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 (43 CFR 46.215 (h)).                                                                                          | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 10. This action would violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)).                                                                                                                                                                                     | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 11. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (E.O. 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)).                                                                                                                                                                                        | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 12. This action would 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 (E.O. 13007 and 43 CFR 46.215 (k)).                                                                                   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 13. This action would affect Indian Trust Assets. (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITAs) (S.O. 3175; Policy Memorandum dated 12/15/93).                                                                                                                                                                        | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive 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, E.O. 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |

**NEPA Action Recommended:** Categorical Exclusion ☒ EA \_\_\_ EIS \_\_\_

**Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:**

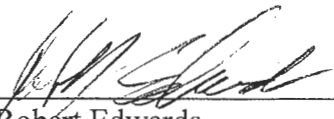
See the attached correspondence from the Mid-Pacific Region Cultural Resources Division regarding concurrence with Item 8 (cultural resources), and from Patricia Rivera regarding Item 13 (Indian Trust Assets).

Prepared by:

  
Julia Long  
Natural Resources Specialist

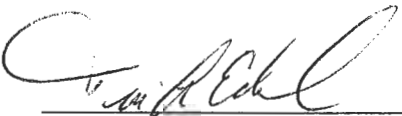
2-28-12  
Date

Concurrence:

  
Robert Edwards  
Resource Division Manager

2/28/2012  
Date

Approved:

  
Terri Edwards  
Deputy Area Manager

2/28/12  
Date



**Long, Julia A**

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**From:** Rivera, Patricia L  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2012 12:08 PM  
**To:** Long, Julia A  
**Subject:** RE: ITA Request- Rye Patch Geotechnical Investigations

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**From:** Rivera, Patricia L  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2012 11:26 AM  
**To:** Long, Julia A  
**Cc:** Williams, Mary D (Diane); Robbins, Eleanor J (Ellie)  
**Subject:** RE: ITA Request- Rye Patch Geotechnical Investigations

Just adding the location of the nearest ITA for a more definitive response to your request  
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Julia,

I reviewed the proposed action to authorize geotechnical investigations on Reclamation withdrawn land below Rye Patch Dam.

The proposed geotechnical investigations will require boring two, 45 to 60-feet deep by 8-inches in diameter and a multi channel analysis to depths of approximately 100-feet using seismic analysis methods. It is proposed, the holes be bored in the parking area near the outlet works of Rye Patch Dam. The holes will be back filled with a cement grout mix plug extending to the surface of the parking area.

The proposed geotechnical investigation is anticipated to begin February 2012.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.  
The nearest ITA is Lovelock Indian Colony approximately 17 miles SSW of the project location.

Patricia



**Long, Julia A**

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**From:** Overly, Stephen A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:58 AM  
**To:** Long, Julia A  
**Cc:** Fogerty, John A; Bruce, Brandee E; Nickels, Adam M; Goodsell, Joanne E; Williams, Scott A; Soule, William E; Perry, Laureen (Laurie) M; Dunay, Amy L; Leigh, Anastasia T  
**Subject:** Section 106 Consultation Complete for 11-LBAO-259

Rye Patch Dam Power Plant Geotechnical Study, Pershing County, Nevada

Julia,

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to permit Pershing County Water Conservation District (PCWCD) to drill two eight inch bore holes on a portion of Reclamation's Rye Patch Dam Facility in Pershing County, Nevada. Reclamation's approval of the geotechnical investigation by PCWCD constitutes an undertaking as defined by Section 301(7) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470), as amended.

Reclamation therefore consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 implementing Section 106 of the NHPA. Reclamation identified the Rye Patch Dam as a historic property eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A and Criterion C for its association with the Depression Era Relief Theme and the Irrigation and Reclamation Theme at the local level. Reclamation also determined that the proposed geotechnical study would result in no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b) and submitted a consultation package and supporting documentation to the SHPO on January 19, 2012. Reclamation was notified via phone by the SHPO on February 27, 2012 that SHPO concurred with our and that the concurrence letter from SHPO was mailed to Reclamation on February 22, 2012.

The concurrence by SHPO completes the Section 106 process for the geotechnical study. The information from the bore holes will be used for planning a power plant proposed by PCWCD. That larger power plant project itself will be the subject of a separate Section 106 consultation at a later date after design details are more complete.

For the geotechnical study I can now concur with Item 8 on CEC LO-2011-1016, dated January 19, 2012.

Thanks,  
Tony

Stephen (Tony) Overly, M.A. Archaeologist  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way, MP-153  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
916-978-5552

