

## Attachment 11J(1)

### Explanatory Note for DOI: U.S. Geological Service November 2, 2009

In accordance with the guidance provided by the Council of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Geological Survey provides the required status report as of September 30, 2009.

Please note that the USGS Deferred Maintenance projects for Streamgauges, Cableways, and Wells proposed in the last report are reduced from 1289 to 911 NEPA actions to reflect those projects that were completed prior to receiving Recovery Act funding.

Also, four NEPA actions were determined to warrant an Environmental Assessment instead of a Categorical Exclusion, and one action is withdrawn. The report has been amended to reflect these changes.

#### *NEPA Actions*

- Row 23, Project 2: Central Region - COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER - Renovate Pond Banks, Kettles and Piping
- Row 24, Project 3: Central Region - COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER - Upgrade Parking Lot Drainage
- Row 43, Project 22: Eastern Region - LEETOWN SCIENCE CENTER - Install New Water Source for Public Water Supply
- Row 77, Project 56: Eastern Region - UPPER MIDWEST ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES CENTER - Design and Install Fire Suppression System in the Main Office, Laboratory, Garage, & Maintenance Building

#### *Withdrawn*

- Row 34, Project 13: Eastern Region - FLORIDA INTEGRATED SCIENCE CENTER - Repair Heating, Ventilating & Air-Conditioning System

Many Streamgauge, Cableway, and Well projects included in the USGS plan are located on non-Federal lands. This requires the USGS to consult with individual State, Tribal, and other local entities to obtain the necessary environmental clearances that address potential historical, cultural, biological, and habitat resource issues prior to making a categorical exclusion determination. These confirmations have delayed our process in completing NEPA actions. As discussed, the USGS anticipates that a large portion of these projects will be issued a categorical exclusion before the next reporting cycle. This explains why these projects have remained pending on multiple reports.

Additionally, the Volcano and Earthquake projects included in our plan will remain "Pending" until the acquisition process is complete. Under these Cooperative Agreement procurements the Cooperator determines the location of the projects. This location information is needed to complete the NEPA determination.

###