

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project NOVUS-USA Temporary Access & Archeological Survey Permit

Date June 15, 2004

Project Number: PAIS-04-0010

Describe project, including location (reference the attached Environmental Screening Form (ESF), if appropriate):

On December 3, 2003, Padre Island National Seashore received a request for a temporary permit allowing Belaire Environmental on behalf of NOVUS-USA to conduct the gathering of information for purposes of preparing a Plan(s) of Operations for well(s) in the park. This permit began on the December 4, 2003 and in effect for a period of 45-days.

The original permit has expired and the Plan of Operations is not completed. Conversations with Belaire Environmental indicate that the Plan of Operations completion won't be for another 3 to 4 weeks. Due to this time frame, an additional temporary access permit is needed and will be in effect for 60 days from today's date. The permit is contingent on there being no measurable environmental damage, and/or no new or additional surface disturbance to the park.

Additionally, an archeological survey will have to be completed to fulfill compliance requirements, so the two have been combined.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see section 3-4 of DO-12):

The categorical exclusion that applies to temporary access is 3.4(E)(6), which states:

"Non-destructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities (this is also a Departmental CE)."

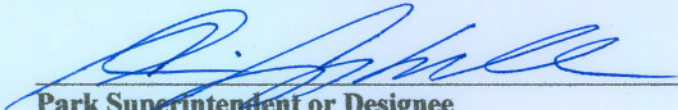
The categorical exclusion that applies to archeological surveys is 3.4(E)(1), which states:

"Archeological surveys and permits involving only surface collection or small-scale excavations."

Describe any public or agency involvement effort conducted (reference the attached ESF):

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. subsection 9.52(a), on December 14, 2003, a notice was put in the Corpus Christi Caller Times informing the public of NOVUS-USA's request for a temporary access permit to collect the data necessary to develop a Plan of Operations.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (i.e., all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in section 3-4 of DO-12.


Park Superintendent or Designee

Padre Island National Seashore

6/16/04
Date

Arlene A Wimer

Environmental Protection Specialist / NPS Contact Person

P O Box 181300 Corpus Christi, TX 78480-1300

Address

361-949-8173 ext. 224

Phone Number