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Factors Contributing to Dust Emissions in Clark County, Nevada Quarterly Progress Report: Period Ending April 15, 2007

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending April 15, 2007

Task Agreement Number FAA010017

Assessing Factors Contributing to Dust Emissions from Public Lands
On Air Quality in Areas of Clark County, Nevada

Executive Summary

- Post-doctoral scholar commenced work
- Discussions with BLM personnel and site assessment necessitate additional project funds through Task Agreement Modification

Hiring

Dr. Goossens began work on February 1, 2007 as a post-doctoral scholar.

Preliminary Project Planning

During January, UNLV staff facilitated the hiring of an international scientist, Dr. Dirk Goossens, and facilitated his orientation to the U.S., UNLV, and the project in February.

Project Manager Brenda Buck and Dr. Goossens met with Lisa Christianson at the BLM office (February 26, 2007) to discuss BLM's research questions related to the project and to tour the field site.

Ms. Christianson explained that BLM requires the following: (1) an assessment of the dust emissions from the Nellis Dunes Area and (2) a risk map of the area that predicts the potential for dust emissions based on a soils map.

Also discussed was the complexity of the field area and the contributing factors to air pollution in this area. The research site is far more complex than was anticipated. The soils and the topography vary greatly throughout the area, which affects both the emissions and wind speeds. In addition, the area has far more sand in it than expected, which renders useless the inexpensive dust pans that we originally intended to use. Additional funds are required to adequately characterize the research area and answer the specified research questions. An additional consideration is the need for public participation in not tampering with or destroying the dust collectors. Dr. Buck suggested the possibility of erecting signs and/or fences to protect equipment used for this project.

Drs. Buck and Goosens worked with satellite data available from public sources to create better estimates of the scope of this project and required equipment. This information was used to prepare a budget for the additional expenses. This information is being used in the development of a budgetary modification to the Task Agreement, which is currently under negotiation. The modification might also include changes to deliverables and possibly the UNLV department in which this Task Agreement is carried out.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator

April 15, 2007

Date