



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Program or Field Office: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM)

Project Title: Site transition and associated long-term surveillance and maintenance actions at the Durita, Colorado, Disposal Site.

Location: Durita, Colorado, Disposal Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

DOE LM is proposing to transition the Durita, Colorado, Disposal Site to LM. This proposed action is for administrative and asset management activities, and post-transition long-term surveillance and maintenance (LTS&M) actions related to transition of the site. Activities covered under these actions are described below. The site is located in Montrose County, approximately 100 miles south of Grand Junction and 3 miles southwest of Naturita (see figures).

Administrative functions associated with site transition would include acquiring and preserving site information, evaluating the disposal structures, establishing the administrative transfer boundary, developing a long-term surveillance plan (LTSP), transferring surface and subsurface estates in fee to DOE, evaluating reuse opportunities, determining post-closure care requirements, and adding assets to the Facilities Information Management System. LM would conduct a site inspection within 90 days of transfer. The inspection may include any or all the following:

- Evaluating Facilities Information Management System assets
- Assessing the condition of roads and access points
- Evaluating erosion control features
- Obtaining information on the presence of historic or archaeological resources
- Obtaining information on potential federal and state threatened and endangered species and their habitats
- Identifying the presence of noxious weeds,
- Evaluating the overall condition of the site, including the disposal cell

Once the site is administratively transferred, implementation of the LTSP would begin immediately. Proposed LTS&M activities would begin in 2020 and are expected to include annual site inspections; and routine maintenance activities, including (1) survey monument placement or repair, (2) lock replacement or repair, (3) vegetation management including trimming vegetation that encroaches on site features or obstructs signs, (4) hand or mechanical removal of undesired vegetation and weeds, (5) pesticide and herbicide spraying for control of listed noxious and invasive plants and also deep-rooted plants on the disposal structure covers; (6) sign installation and replacement, (7) small erosion control activities or minor road repair, (8) debris removal, and (9) fence maintenance.

Proposed monitoring activities could include performing on-site and off-site environmental monitoring of site systems which might include, but are not limited to: (1) cell cover material evaluation, including rip-rap material; (2) flora and fauna sampling; (3) vegetation management, using off-road and all-terrain vehicles as needed for access; and (4) land surveying to provide precise location information for various activities, including replacing boundary monuments, and replacing erosion control markers. Proposed activities would also include performing ground or aerial photography, or topographic, ecologic, or other surveys by various means for documentation. Proposed activities would be conducted by the Legacy Management Support contractor.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A1 Routine DOE business actions
- A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination
- B1.3 Routine maintenance
- B1.24 Property transfers
- B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring
- B3.2 Aviation activities

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 1021 (10 CFR 1021).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

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- The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

- There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized by the LM Director per DOE Policy 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified classes of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.



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CHAVEZ
Date: 2018.12.04 13:53:51 -07'00'

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date Determined