



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Amendment to LM 06-19 for Verification and Validation Visits at Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program mines in the state of Wyoming

Location: DRUM Program mines in the state of Wyoming

Proposed Action or Project Description:

Checklist LM 06-19 evaluated potential impacts related to conducting inventory, mapping, and soil and surface water sampling at abandoned uranium mines in the State of Wyoming in accordance with the approved Defense-Related Uranium Mines Verification and Validation Work Plan. All information in Checklist LM 06-19 is still applicable, as are all of the categorical exclusions that were identified therein. Under this amendment, DOE seeks to expand the scope of activities under Checklist LM 06-19 to include the use of manned aerial vehicles to supplement investigations at some locations. Performance of aerial remote-sensing surveys would occur on an as-needed basis. No aviation activities would commence until required Flight Safety Plans are approved by a certified DOE aviation manager and permission is received from LM to proceed with aviation activities. The need to perform follow-up aerial surveys would depend, in part, upon results of the baseline aerial survey. Follow-up aerial surveys would require new Flight Safety Plans approved by a certified DOE aviation manager.

Proposed activities are planned to be initiated and completed between July 16 and October 31, 2021. The duration of the project is one week or less. All proposed activities would follow seasonal restrictions related to the breeding seasons of golden eagles and greater sage-grouse and avoid flights between March 15 and July 15.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- 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)

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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Tracy A. Ribeiro

Digitally signed by Tracy A.
Ribeiro

Date: 2021.02.01 22:46:21 -07'00'

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature and
Determination Date