



**U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management  
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form**



**Program or Field Office:** Office of Legacy Management (LM)

**Project Title and I.D. No.:** Conduct Pedogenesis Study at the Lakeview, Oregon, Disposal Site (LM 21-17)

**Location:** Lakeview, Oregon

**Proposed Action or Project Description:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is proposing to conduct a study of the performance of the engineered soil cover at the Lakeview disposal site. This proposed study involves excavation of the cover material itself and of undisturbed portions of the nearby source of the cover material to study the soil formation process at this location. This study is being conducted in support of a larger effort to evaluate the long-term performance of engineered soil covers at LM managed sites nationwide.

The majority of the ground disturbing activity would take place on the existing cell cover. A limited number of analog locations would be excavated in undisturbed soil proximate to the borrow pit originally used to establish the cover. The analog sites would provide comparative data for evaluation of the soil forming processes that have influenced the cover soils since establishment of the cover in the 1980s. Excavations would go no deeper than the radon control barrier. No tailing material would be encountered at any of the locations. All excavations would be reclaimed at the conclusion of the project.

**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:**

- B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring
- B3.8 Outdoor terrestrial ecological and environmental research

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 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 under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

*JChavez*

Joyce E. Chavez  
2017.10.18 14:39:37 -06'00'

**NEPA Compliance Officer:**

**Date Determined:**