

## U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Checklist

**Project/Activity:** Maintenance actions at the Monument Valley, AZ, Site

### A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management needs to remove windblown sand that has built up along the Monument Valley, AZ, Site north fence line, repair eroded areas below the fence, and raise the height of the site perimeter fence to prevent domestic animal intrusion into the site area.

The windblown sand has formed a small dune along the north perimeter fence line of the site. The affected fence is 3 feet high and consists of three strands of barbed wire. Windblown weeds accumulate along the fence and trap sand, which over time buries the fence and enables free-range cattle to walk over the fence onto the DOE site. Windblown sand is a continuing maintenance issue at the site.

Elevated radiation levels are present in some soils on the site, and they present a potential health risk to humans or animals if grazing animals transfer contaminated soil outside of the site boundary. In addition to the sand build-up along the fence, areas under the fence have eroded and are in need of repair. Currently, only the north perimeter fence line, 300–400 feet in length, would be addressed; however, the height of the remaining perimeter fence line would be similarly modified in the future. This Environmental Checklist also includes consideration of the future fence height modifications.

DOE proposes to use a backhoe to remove the sand along the fence, use a portion of the sand as backfill to repair the eroded areas under the fence, and relocate the remaining sand 30 to 50 feet north of the fence on tribal land. DOE would hand-install three strands of barbed wire and longer fence posts to increase the height of the fence. Deer or antelope are not known to frequent the area, and therefore wildlife concerns related to animals getting hung up on a high fence would not be an issue. The higher fence is expected to reduce the frequency of maintenance along the fence line. The work is expected to take one week. There are no protected resources present in any affected work area.

### B. Environmental Concerns

Evaluate the following elements and indicate by checking “yes” or “no” if any phase of the project/activity would result in a change or impact that is subject to regulatory permits, controls, or plans or that would require additional evaluation. If the “yes” column is checked, provide a brief explanation below and attach sheets with additional detail as necessary or appropriate.

Element	Yes	No	Element	Yes	No
Air emissions/air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exposure/impacts to public or workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need for public awareness/involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Solid waste generation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation/traffic control required	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mixed waste management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access to/use of DOE property	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chemical storage on site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visual resources impacted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pesticide/herbicide use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultural/archaeology resources present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toxic substances management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wetland/floodplain impacted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Element	Yes	No	Element	Yes	No
Regulated quantities of petroleum used or stored on site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protected species present: federal, state, or tribe listed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Radioactive materials/soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Migratory birds breeding or nesting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface (ground) disturbance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild/scenic rivers impacted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface water use/contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prime/unique farmlands present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Groundwater use/contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater quality affected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other considerations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### C. Explanation and Qualification of All “Yes” Responses

Noise: Noise related to the use of a backhoe would be noticeable to the adjacent residents in this remote area. However, the noise associated with the use of heavy equipment would be limited to the actual period of equipment use.

Radioactive materials/soils: Recent radiation surveys of the Monument Valley Site located an area in the southeastern portion of the site that contained soils with elevated radiation levels. None of the proposed work would occur in areas with contaminated soils.

Surface (ground) disturbance: The use of a backhoe to remove the sand would likely also scrape some surface areas beneath the built-up sand. These areas would have been previously disturbed by actions related to the remediation of the site, and this action would not constitute a new disturbance.

Access to/use of DOE property: The Monument Valley Site is located on land owned by the Navajo Nation. DOE has a cooperative agreement in place with the Navajos to conduct various maintenance actions related to the site. Access to the site would be on public and tribal roads that would not require permits.

Cultural/archaeology resources present: The potentially disturbed ground surfaces have been surveyed for the presence of cultural resources, and none were identified in affected areas.

Other considerations: The Navajo Nation and adjacent resident would be contacted prior to work at the site.

### D. Eligibility/Conditions

The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 1021 (10 CFR 1021). DOE has determined that these classes of actions do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment (see 10 CFR 1021.410). There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action, and the proposed action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts. Finally, the action is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

**E. Recommendation**

The proposed action of performing maintenance, including raising the height of the existing fence, would be considered categorically excluded from further environmental evaluation under 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B1.3, "Routine maintenance activities," and B1.11, "Fencing, no adverse effect on wildlife movement/surface water flow."

Meets Criteria                       Does Not Meet Criteria                       Unsure


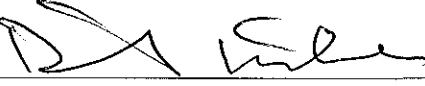
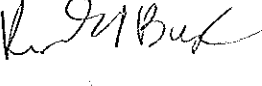
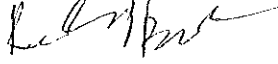
**F. NEPA Determination**

The scope of actions proposed under Section A of this Environmental Checklist, and the information relevant to the potential for environmental impacts in Section B have been reviewed, and the following has been determined:

- The proposed actions meet the criteria for categorical exclusion.
- The proposed actions do not meet the criteria for categorical exclusion; therefore, I recommend that the LM NEPA Planning Board be convened based on my recommendation (see attached rationale) to complete:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> an Interim Action                 | <input type="checkbox"/> an Environmental Assessment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an Environmental Impact Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> a Supplemental Analysis     |

## Concurrences

**Project/Activity:** Maintenance actions at the Monument Valley, AZ, Site

<b>LM Site Name</b> Monument Valley, AZ, Site	<b>LM Site Program</b> UMTRA Title I	
<b>Contractor</b> <b>NEPA Coordinator</b> Sandy Beranich	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 4-6-2010
<b>Contractor Site Lead</b>  Dave Miller	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 4/6/10
<b>LM Site Manager</b>  Richard Bush	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 4/8/10
<b>LM NEPA</b> <b>Compliance Officer</b> Richard Bush	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 4/8/10

Distribution upon signature:

R. Bush, LM NEPA Compliance officer and DOE Site Manager

T. Ribeiro, LM NEPA Compliance Officer

S. Beranich, Stoller NEPA Coordinator and Compliance Lead for Monument Valley

D. Miller, Stoller Site Lead

S. Osborn, Stoller Compliance Manager

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