

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

Project/Activity: Install a test cover at Grand Junction, CO, Disposal Site

A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes to install a 70 foot (ft) x 140 ft test cover that duplicates the top 42 inches of the existing cover at the Grand Junction, CO, Disposal Site. The purpose of the test cover is to evaluate methods for renovating low-permeability disposal cell covers and to measure the effects of renovation on soil hydraulic properties and seedbed ecology. The test cover would be constructed on the surface of an existing stockpile of clay soil and would be located approximately 100 ft from an existing access road. Light grading to create a haul road across the surface of the stockpile to the test cover location would be required.

The test cover would be constructed as follows: the footprint would be excavated in the existing clay stockpile to a depth of 2 ft, and the removed material would be moisture-conditioned and stockpiled adjacent to the excavation. The moisture-conditioned soil would then be returned to the excavation and compacted to duplicate the 24-inch frost protection layer that underlies the existing cover. Bedding and rock cap materials would be brought from other designated area stockpiles, deposited, and compacted. An existing on-site access road would be used to transport materials between stockpiles and the test cover.

No tailings or radiological contaminated materials are located where the test cover would be constructed. The project is expected to take between one to two weeks and would require use of heavy equipment and a combination of seven workers and supervisors.

The Grand Junction disposal cell was constructed under Title I of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) of 1978. A portion of the cell was left open as a future repository for UMTRCA low-level contaminated materials, primarily originating from buried utilities in Grand Junction that continue to be upgraded or replaced. The stockpiles on the site are present for use in constructing the cover when the open portion of the cell is closed.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Toxic substances management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wetland/floodplain impacted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Regulated quantities of petroleum used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protected species present: federal, state,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Element	Yes	No	Element	Yes	No
or stored on site			or tribe listed		
Radioactive materials/soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

C. Explanation and Qualification of All "Yes" Responses

Air emissions/air quality: Minor amounts of fugitive dust would be generated by the use of heavy equipment. If necessary, water would be used to reduce dust levels associated with loading and hauling materials from the stockpiles.

Noise: Temporary elevated noise levels are associated with the use of heavy equipment.

Surface (ground) disturbance: Activities would be performed on areas previously highly disturbed by construction activities when the disposal cell was constructed.

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). No extraordinary circumstances are 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 installing a test cover would be considered categorically excluded from further environmental evaluation under 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B3, Categorical exclusions applicable to site Characterization, monitoring, and General Research: B3.1: "Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices...".

Meets Criteria Does Not Meet Criteria Unsure


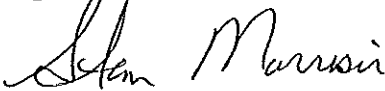


F. NEPA Determination

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:
- an Interim Action an Environmental Assessment
- an Environmental Impact Statement a Supplemental Analysis

Concurrences

Project/Activity: Install test cover at Grand Junction, CO, Disposal Site

LM Site Name Grand Junction Disposal Site	LM Site Program UMTRA Title I, Applied Science and Technology	
Contractor NEPA Coordinator Sandy Beranich	Signature 	Date 4-19-10
Contractor Subtask Manager Stan Morrison	Signature 	Date 4-19-10
LM Project Manager Richard Bush	Signature 	Date 5/3/10
LM NEPA Compliance Officer Richard Bush	Signature 	Date 5/3/10

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