

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

**Project/Activity:** Reclamation Projects in Energy Fuels Lease Tracts 19A and 20, Uranium Leasing Program

**A. Brief Project/Activity Description**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes to close a mine adit, a subsided vent shaft, and an open vent on DOE Lease Tract C-AM-19A, and to close one open vent on the adjacent DOE Lease Tract C-AM-20. Independent contractors associated with Energy Fuels, the leaseholder, would complete all work within an expected 2 days. DOE inherited the abandoned mine features when lease tract boundaries were reconfigured in 2007. Both tracts are in western Montrose County several miles northwest of the former town of Uravan, Colorado. Access to the mine sites would be by foot or by driving on existing dirt track roads.

The open mine adit in Lease Tract C-AM-19A poses a potential safety hazard. An interior door within the mine entrance would be closed, and then pressurized polyurethane foam would be sprayed to fill and close off the mine entrance.

The subsided vent shaft on the former Abajo No. 3 claim (Lease Tract C-AM-19A) would be backfilled with available surface soil materials and reseeded with an approved seed mixture. The subsided area covers 10 feet (ft) by 12 ft and is 8 ft deep.

The two open vents (Lease Tract C-AM-19A, a former Abajo No. 2 claim, and Lease Tract C-AM-20, a former Townsend claim) consist of a metal casing with a surface grate that is in need of re-welding.

The area was evaluated for the presence of cultural resources, and none were identified. The work is planned to be conducted after migratory bird season although there are no breeding or nesting birds known to be present on the site. No wetlands are present.

**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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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/archaeological 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"/>
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radioactive materials/soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migratory birds breeding or nesting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

Element	Yes	No	Element	Yes	No
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: Backfilling the area around the subsided vent may result in minor and temporary fugitive dust. This work is expected to take less than 1 day to complete and would be in a remote area.

Surface (ground) disturbance: Minor surface disturbance would be associated with backfilling the subsided vent. The vent occupies approximately 120 square ft. A small adjacent area would also be disturbed for maneuvering equipment and redistributing area soil materials.

Cultural/archaeological resources present: The affected site areas have been evaluated for cultural resources, and none were found eligible for nomination to the National Historic Record.

Protected species present; federal, state, or tribe listed: No listed species are known to be present in the affected areas, and the mine adit would not provide appropriate habitat for sensitive bat species.

Migratory birds breeding or nesting: The proposed work would be conducted after migratory bird breeding and nesting season is over. In addition, the short-term disturbance at each of the work sites would not be considered intrusive if late nesters were in the area.

**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 proposed action's environmental impacts, 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 sealing of a mine adit, backfilling of a subsided vent shaft, and re-welding of grates over open vents are allowable activities under Criterion B1.28 of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021: "Minor activities that are required to place a facility in an environmentally safe condition where there is no proposed use for the facility."

Meets Criteria

Does Not Meet Criteria

Unsure

**F. National Environmental Policy Act (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.

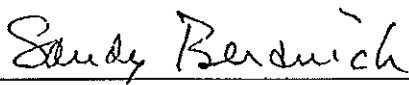

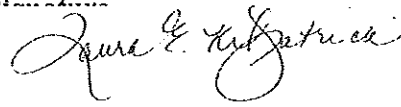

an Environmental Assessment.

an Environmental Impact Statement.

a Supplemental Analysis.

## Concurrences

Project/Activity: Reclamation Projects in Energy Fuels Lease Tracts 19A and 20

<b>LM Site Name</b> Energy Fuels LT C-AM-19A and LT C-AM-20	<b>LM Site Program</b>  Uranium Leasing Program	
<b>Contractor NEPA Coordinator</b> Sandy Beranich	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 6-17-2010
<b>Contractor Program Lead</b> Ed Cotter	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 6/21/2010
<b>LM Program Manager</b> Laura Kilpatrick	<b>Signature</b>  Laura E. Kilpatrick DOE LM - Rocky Flats 2010.06.21 11:20:20 -06'00'	<b>Date</b> 2010.06.21 11:20:20 -06'00'
<b>LM NEPA Compliance Officer</b> Richard Bush	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 6/25/10

Distribution upon signature:

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