

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

Project/Activity: Restoration of drill pads, infiltration basins, sumps, and other surface areas at the Central Nevada Test Area, Nevada

A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes to restore two drill pads with infiltration basins, two lined sumps, and miscellaneous surface areas associated with groundwater monitoring wells. A small crew of four people would take 2 weeks to complete this work in early September 2010. Disturbed areas would be hand-seeded with native plant species in November 2010. An attached figure shows all affected areas.

Drill pads associated with groundwater monitoring wells MV-4 and MV-5 are each approximately 250 feet (ft) by 250 ft, and each contains two infiltration basins (approximately 12 ft deep) that were used to contain drilling fluids and cuttings during the 2009 drilling program. Heavy equipment would be used to push the bermed sides of the disturbed areas into the infiltration basins, and all areas would be contoured to the surrounding land surface and scarified for seeding. The roads leading to the wells and a small area around each well (approximately 30 ft) would be left unchanged to allow access during future monitoring. No contamination was detected during the drilling program, and the infiltration basins are not lined.

Two fenced and lined sumps associated with groundwater monitoring well HTH-2 were used for water storage during pad construction and drilling operations in 2009. Each sump is approximately 100 ft by 50 ft and an estimated 8 ft deep. Heavy equipment would push surrounding soil materials into the sumps and finish the grade to blend with surrounding topography. The surface would be scarified in preparation for seeding. Prior to grading actions, the plastic liner material would be removed from the sumps and made available for area ranchers to reuse or removed from the site with other trash. The metal fence posts would be brought back to the LM office in Grand Junction, Colorado, for reuse. The wire fence cannot be recycled but would be removed from the site with trash.

Two other areas are in need of restoration related to drilling activities. Groundwater monitoring well HTH-1RC has a small surface area (approximately 150 ft by 150 ft) in need of grading and scarifying prior to seeding. Groundwater monitoring well UC-1-P-1SRC also has a small surface area (approximately 130 ft by 130 ft) in need of grading and scarifying in preparation for seeding.

Equipment would be refueled on site. Fuel tanks with a capacity of 100 to 110 gallons would be available on site on the backs of trucks. Fuel would be conveyed to equipment via locking fuel hoses and in accordance with a fuel plan. Hose connections would be checked for leaks prior to fueling.

A 4,000-gallon filled water truck would be brought to the site and would be available for dust control if needed.

There are no contamination issues associated with this work, and all areas were previously evaluated for protected resources in earlier environmental checklists (LM 03-09 and LM 11-08).

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 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 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 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 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

Surface (ground) disturbance: The restoration activities would affect approximately 4 acres of previously disturbed areas and benefit the environment.

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 restoration actions are excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation under Appendix B to Subpart D of Part 1020, B1.3 (k), “Routine maintenance activities (k) erosion control and soil stabilization measures.”

Meets Criteria

Does Not Meet Criteria

Unsure

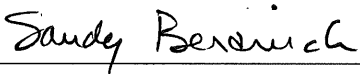
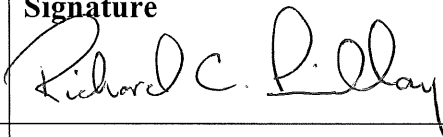

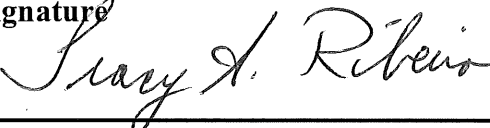
F. NEPA Determination

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.

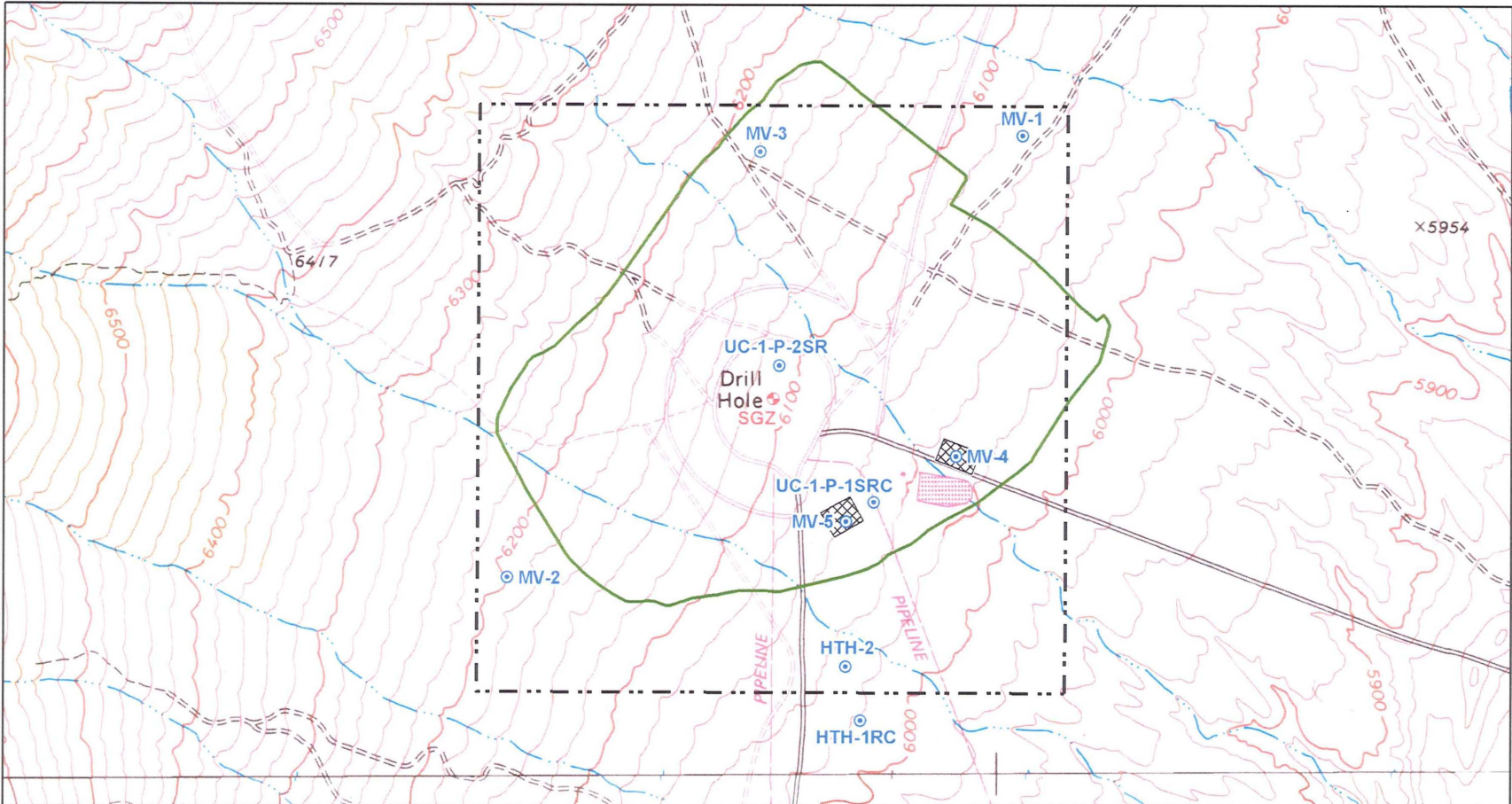
Concurrences

Project/Activity: Restoration of drill pads, sumps, infiltration basins, and other surface areas at the Central Nevada Test Area, Nevada

LM Site Name Central Nevada Test Area	LM Site Program Other Defense Activities – Nevada Off Sites Program	
Contractor NEPA Coordinator Sandy Beranich	Signature 	Date 8-11-2010
Contractor Site Lead Richard Findlay	Signature 	Date 8-11-2010
LM Site Manager Mark Kautsky	Signature 	Date 8-12-2010
LM NEPA Compliance Officer Tracy A. Ribeiro	Signature 	Date 8/19/10

Distribution upon signature:

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M. Kautsky, LM Site Manager
S. Beranich, S.M. Stoller Corporation (Stoller) NEPA Coordinator
R. Findlay, Stoller Site Lead
R. Hutton, Stoller Nevada Off Sites Project Manager
S. Osborn, Stoller Compliance Manager
rc-grand.junction



Surface Ground Zero (UC-1 Emplacement Borehole)	 SCALE IN FEET 1,000 500 0 1,000
Existing Well	
Withdrawal Boundary	
Well Pad	
Fault Block Boundary / Compliance Boundary	
Basemap: Moores Station and Moores Station SW 7.5-minute USGS Topographic Quadrangles	

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO	Work Performed by S.M. Stoller Corporation Under DOE Contract No. DE-AC01-071-M00060
	Well Location Map Central Nevada Test Area - UC-1
DATE PREPARED August 11, 2010	FILENAME S0691300