

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

**Project/Activity:** Sand clearing along fence lines and minor road maintenance at the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site

### A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is proposing to remove drifted sand along two fence lines, repair the affected fences, and perform minor road grading of an access road at the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site. The attached map shows the location, and all work would be conducted by DOE on DOE-owned land.

Sand would be removed from the north and south fence lines, using a frontend loader, and dumped on site to allow for natural dispersion. The fence areas affected by the sand accumulation would be repaired. The north fence line has approximately 3,900 feet of affected area, and the south fence line has approximately 300 feet of affected area. Access to the affected areas would be on existing roads; however, some maintenance work would be required along 800 feet of the site access road. Maintenance work for the road would include grading to remove a high crown.

The proposed locations for the work are in previously disturbed areas, and no new disturbance would occur. The project would require 3 days. Two people would perform the work. The work is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

### B. Environmental Concerns

Evaluate the following elements and indicate by checking “yes” or “no” if any phase of the project or 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	X		Exposure/impacts to public or workers		X
Noise		X	Need for public awareness/involvement		X
Solid waste generation		X	Transportation/traffic control required		X
Mixed waste management		X	Access to/use of DOE property		X
Chemical storage on site		X	Visual resources impacted		X
Pesticide/herbicide use		X	Cultural/archaeology resources present		X
Toxic substances management		X	Wetland/floodplain impacted		X
Regulated quantities of petroleum used or stored on site		X	Protected species present: federal, state, or tribe listed		X
Radioactive materials/soils		X	Migratory birds breeding or nesting		X
Surface (ground) disturbance	X		Wild/scenic rivers impacted		X
Surface water use/contamination		X	Prime/unique farmlands present		X
Surface water quality		X	Groundwater use/contamination		X
Groundwater quality affected		X	Other considerations		X

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

Air emissions/air quality: Fugitive dust is expected to be generated as a result of the sand removal and grading activities but likely will not be visible to the nearby town of Bluewater (4 miles from the site). If necessary, dust would be controlled by applying water.

Surface (ground) disturbance: Minor surface ground disturbance related to frontend-loader use is expected.

**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 clearing sand from existing fence line and performing road maintenance at the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site would be considered categorically excluded from further environmental evaluation under 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B 1.3, “Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, infrastructures, equipment.”

- 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:** Sand clearing along fence lines and minor road maintenance at the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site

<b>LM Site Name</b> Blue Water, New Mexico, Disposal Site	<b>LM Site Programs</b> Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title II	
<b>Contractor NEPA Coordinator</b> Lynn Bowdidge	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 10-5-10
<b>Contractor Site Lead</b> Richard Johnson	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 10/5/10
<b>LM Project Manager</b> April Gil	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 10/4/2010
<b>LM NEPA Compliance Officer</b> Tracy Ribeiro	<b>Signature</b> 	<b>Date</b> 10/7/10

Distribution upon signature:

T. Ribeiro, LM NEPA Compliance Officer

A. Gil, LM Site Manager

S. Beranich, S.M. Stoller Corporation (Stoller) NEPA coordinator

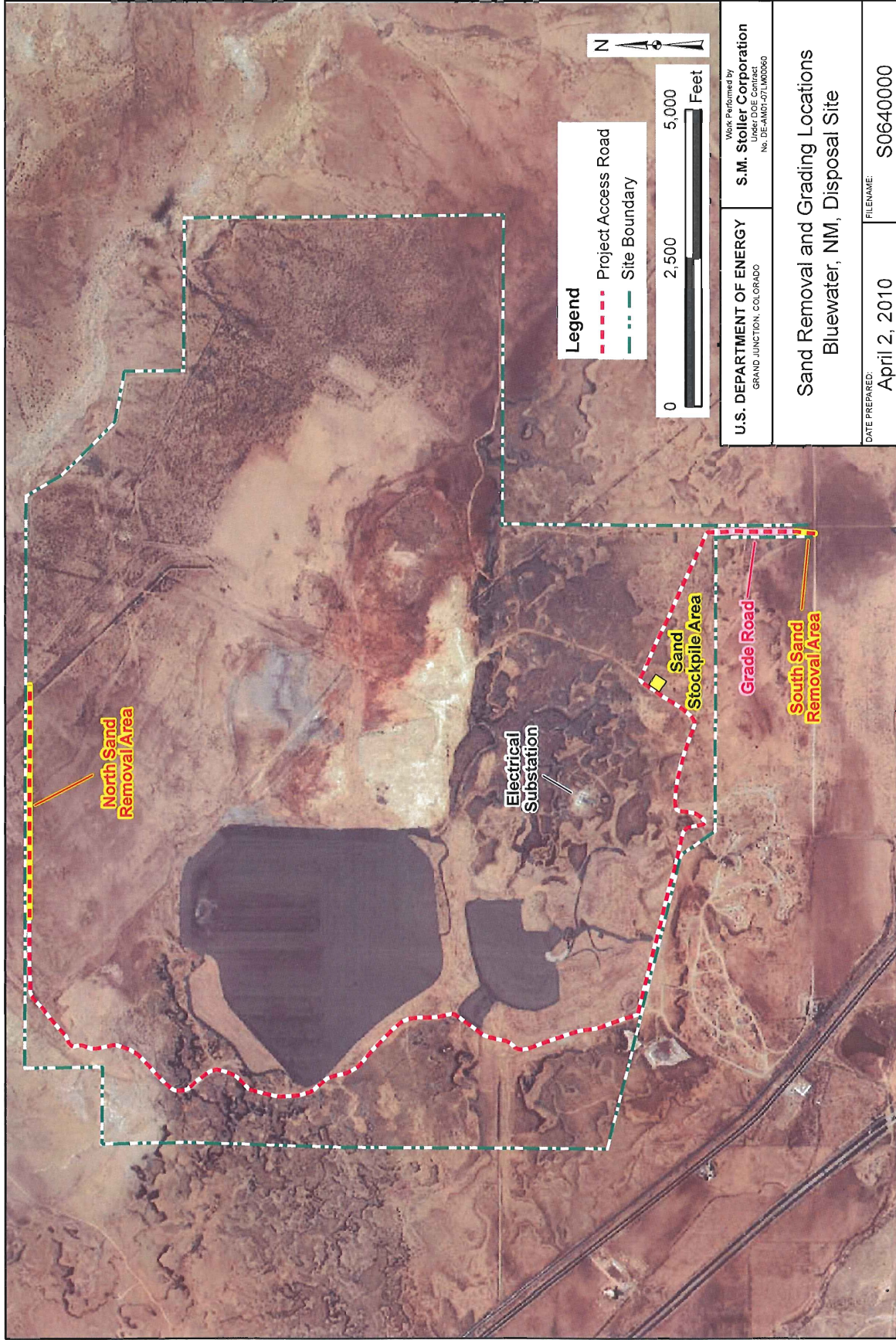
L. Bowdidge, Stoller NEPA coordinator

R. Johnson, Bluewater Site Lead

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S. Osborn, Stoller Manager

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
 GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

Work Performed by  
**S.M. Stoller Corporation**  
 Under DOE Contract  
 No. DE-AM01-07-LM00060

Sand Removal and Grading Locations  
 Bluewater, NM, Disposal Site

DATE PREPARED: April 2, 2010  
 FILENAME: S0640000