



**Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form**



Program or Field Office: Office of Legacy Management

Project Title and I.D. No.: Routine monitoring, maintenance, the installation of two wells, and general site and administrative actions at the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site (LM No. 10 -11)

Location: New Mexico

Proposed Action or Project Description:

This Determination Form provides the results of an analysis of potential impacts related to routine monitoring and maintenance actions, the installation of two groundwater monitor wells, general site actions, and general administrative actions related to activities associated with the Bluewater Disposal Site.

Routine actions consist of sampling groundwater monitor wells semiannually, downloading data from field instruments, surveying the locations of two new wells, making unscheduled well repairs, maintaining fence lines, and performing various actions related to well rehabilitation. Three old wells that are not performing as expected would be purged.

Two new wells would be installed to a depth of approximately 150 feet, using an air rotary drilling method. No mud pits would be necessary because air would be used to lift the drill cuttings. Both wells would be located in areas highly disturbed, and no protected resources would be present.

Only negligible environmental concerns were identified during the evaluation of these actions, and all actions were found to be categorically excluded from further evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3: Routine maintenance activities: This criterion would cover various maintenance actions necessary to maintain system and facility components.

B3.1: On-site and off-site characterization and environmental monitoring: Various monitoring and characterization projects area on-going and routine (e.g., groundwater monitoring or well installation), or are proposed.

*For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.

This action would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 of 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Tracy A. Ribeiro

Date Determined:

06/24/11

Comments: