



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 and proposed actions at the New and Old Rifle, Colorado, former processing sites and at the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site. LM No 22-11

Location: Colorado

Proposed Action or Project Description:

This Determination Form provides the results of an evaluation of routine monitoring and maintenance actions, installation of groundwater monitor wells, research studies, and general site and administrative actions at the New and Old Rifle former processing sites and the Rifle Disposal Site near Rifle, Colorado.

Annual and semiannual groundwater sampling and activities associated with monitoring (e.g., taking water level readings or well development) would not result in environmental impacts. The proposed installation of 16 groundwater monitor wells at the Old Rifle Site would occur in areas that were previously extensively disturbed. A sonic rig would be used to install the wells and the average total depth of the wells would be 25 feet below ground surface. Ongoing research by the Integrated Field Research Challenge (IFRC) program may require collection of sediment samples below groundwater on the Old Rifle Site. The IFRC manages special studies to investigate the bio- and geo-chemical properties of groundwater contaminants. Other routine actions that might occur are associated with data collection from field instruments, awarding and managing contracts for various services necessary to support activities, renewing access agreements with various parties to access monitor wells, and maintenance actions to maintain system components.

Negligible impacts are associated with these activities.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.24: Transfer of structures/residential, commercial, industrial use.

B1.3: Routine maintenance activities: This criterion covers various maintenance actions necessary to maintain system components.

B3.1: On-site and off-site characterization and environmental monitoring: Various monitoring and characterization projects are ongoing and routine (e.g., groundwater monitoring), or may be proposed by the IFRC.

B3.6: Siting/construction/operation/decommissioning of facilities for bench-scale research, conventional laboratory operations, small-scale research and development and pilot projects.

*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:

Stacy A. Ribeiro

Date Determined:

06/24/11

Comments: