



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



Program or Field Office: Office of Legacy Management

Project Title and I.D. No.: Routine monitoring, maintenance, general site actions, non-routine actions, and administrative actions at the Falls City, Texas, Disposal Site. LM # 33-11

Location: Falls City, Texas, Disposal Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

Routine monitoring and maintenance actions, general site and administrative actions. Annual site inspections include access via existing roads, walking or driving on the site, and use of equipment to conduct the inspection of the entire 231 acres. Routine actions include on and off-site environmental monitoring and sampling of groundwater, cell cover material including riprap rock and vegetation, and may be research related. Monitoring equipment calibration and maintenance laboratory analysis, and the generation and management of investigation-derived wastes would be included in routine actions. Any investigation-derived waste would be managed in accordance with applicable waste or recycling requirements. Vegetation management would include mowing of the disposal cell top slope and in the area between the toe of the side slopes, and the site perimeter, and herbicide spraying for deep-rooted vegetation on the disposal cell, and to control noxious and invasive species. EPA-approved herbicides would be used, and the amount of pesticide/herbicide would not require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. Maintenance actions would include sign replacement, well repairs, survey monument repair/replacement (the monuments are not over 50 years old), fixing/replacing locks, trimming or hand removal of vegetation, small scale erosion repair, operation and replacement of well pumps, and well development. General site activities would include land surveying, non-intrusive work to provide information for various activities, and fence maintenance and repair. None of these actions would result in environmental impacts.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

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

B3.1: On-site and off-site characterization and environmental monitoring. This criterion covers the monitoring and analysis of the groundwater, and the supporting actions.

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of 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.

Tracy A. Ribeiro
NEPA Compliance Officer:

18 Jan 2012
Date Determined: