



**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.: Abandon five test holes and remove contaminated soils from the associated well pads

Location: Chariot Site, Alaska, near Cape Thompson, Alaska

Proposed Action or Project Description:

Through memorandum agreement between DOE and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE will supervise an approved contractor to abandon five test holes and remove contaminated soils associated with test holes that were installed in the early 1960's near Cape Thompson, Alaska. The test holes would be abandoned in accordance with the requirements of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). Abandonment activities would include removing all liquids in the steel well casings, cutting and removing existing thermistor cables, and cutting off the well head protective casings at the permafrost level. In addition, petroleum, oil, and lubricant-contaminated soils that are above the applicable ADEC clean-up requirements would be removed and containerized. Soil materials that are below cleanup levels would be segregated for use as backfill materials. All materials above ADEC cleanup levels would be placed on an approved liner or directly in bulk soil bags for subsequent removal from the site. Liquids removed from the well casings would be treated before being discharged on the ground. Once all materials above the applicable clean-up standard have been removed, the area would be backfilled with the segregated material, lightly contoured, scarified, fertilized, and seeded with a seed mix recommended by the Alaska Coastal and Revegetation and Erosion Control Guide. All seeding would be completed prior to concluding site activities in 2014. Other off-site areas disturbed by actions related to the remediation (e.g., staging areas for equipment, camp areas, and disturbed tundra areas) would be similarly re-contoured and revegetated.

All debris, waste and excess materials, including but not limited to the liner materials, would be removed from all work areas and appropriately containerized for transport by barge to Seattle, Washington, where they would be off-loaded to truck transport and conveyed to an approved facility in Oregon.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.1: Site Characterization

B6.1: Short-term cleanup

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.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined: