



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



Program or Field Office: Office of Legacy Management (LM)

Project Title and I.D. No.: Conduct LiDAR Surveys and Install Weather Monitoring Station at the Mexican Hat, Utah, UMTRCA Title I Disposal Site (LM 18-17)

Location: Mexican Hat, Utah

Proposed Action or Project Description:

Subtle depressions have been identified on a portion of the cover of the Mexican Hat UMTRCA Title I disposal cell. In order to evaluate and address the cover depressions, additional data are needed. These include: collection of topographic data by using a LiDAR (light detection and ranging) system and collection of meteorological data by using a weather monitoring station. LiDAR and weather data would aid in assessing precipitation events as they relate to potential erosion of the disposal cell cover as indicated by the enlargement or deepening of the cover depression features.

The meteorological data needs to include real-time information to track and monitor the intensity and duration of storm events and also to provide for long-term data storage. Meteorological data would be collected from weather monitoring equipment installed on a tripod at the site.

LiDAR data would be collected from the ground or via an aerial platform that is either manned or unmanned. LiDAR surveys are proposed to be conducted semiannually for a minimum 2-year period to track and identify potential changes in the cover depressions.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.3 Routine maintenance
- B2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation
- B3.2 Aviation activities

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: