



**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.: Well Removal (Abandonment) at Old Rifle, Colorado, Processing Site (LM 13 – 17)

Location: Rifle, Colorado

Proposed Action or Project Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is proposing to contract with a drilling subcontractor to abandon approximately 200 monitoring wells in accordance with the Colorado Division of Water Resources regulations. Most of the monitoring wells are nominally 20 feet deep, constructed of 2- or 4-inch-diameter PVC casing, and do not have wellhead protection. The monitoring wells are installed in unconsolidated alluvium material including silt, sand, and cobbly gravels.

The location where all of the proposed work would take place is an area within the site boundary of the Old Rifle processing site. The well casing for each monitoring well would be removed and the borehole filled to within 5 feet of the ground surface with clean sand. The uppermost 5 feet of the borehole would be filled with grout. After settling has occurred, the drilling subcontractor would revisit each borehole and cap it with additional grout if necessary.

One trailer and various utilities associated with the site may also be removed from this location this year or may be turned over to the City of Rifle. The building that is found within the site boundary is owned by the City of Rifle and would remain in place.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B3.1 – Site characterization and environmental monitoring

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: