



## NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

**Program or Field Office:** Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Legacy Management (LM)

**Project Title and I.D. No.:** Conduct Aquifer Response Tests at the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site (LM 39-17)

**Location:** Tuba City, Arizona

### Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM is proposing to conduct aquifer response tests at six groundwater monitoring and extraction wells at the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site. Five of the six wells are located in the groundwater contamination plume that underlies part of the Site. The contaminated groundwater pumped from each of the five wells during the tests is estimated to range from 7,000 to 36,000 gallons over 5 consecutive days and would be discharged into the site evaporation pond. Two of these five wells are extraction wells that have existing infrastructure to transfer groundwater to the evaporation pond. Groundwater pumped from the other three wells within the plume would be pumped into the piping associated with these or other extraction wells for subsequent transfer to the evaporation pond. The sixth well is located outside of the contamination plume. Because of the distance of this well from the evaporation pond and because the groundwater to be pumped from the well is uncontaminated, LM proposes to discharge the pumped groundwater onto the surrounding ground. This well lies approximately 1 mile northwest of Moenkopi Wash. LM does not anticipate discharge water reaching the Wash.

This Categorical Exclusion Evaluation (LM 39-17) evaluates the potential impacts of aquifer response tests. Environmental considerations include air emissions/air quality, noise, solid waste generation, regulated quantities of petroleum used or stored onsite, present cultural or archaeological resources, groundwater use, and surface disturbance. Disclosed environmental effects were found to be minor. Best management practices would be applied to further minimize potential negative environmental effects.

### 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.

Joyce E. Chavez  
2017.11.13 10:37:40 -07'00'

**NEPA Compliance Officer:**

**Date Determined:**