



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Program or Field Office: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM)

Project Title: Routine surface and groundwater monitoring, inspections, and site maintenance at the Slick Rock, CO, Processing Sites

Location: Slick Rock, CO, Processing Sites

Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM is proposing to conduct groundwater and surface water sampling, monitoring well maintenance, site maintenance (e.g., vegetation management, and other facilities maintenance), and facility and asset inspections and tours at the Slick Rock, CO, Processing Sites to support sampling activity.

Groundwater contaminated from former uranium milling activities is being addressed by a draft compliance strategy submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This strategy proposes ongoing groundwater monitoring and institutional controls maintained to prohibit use of contaminated groundwater, which are implemented through the routine activities. These activities would be performed in a manner that protects human health and the environment according to the relevant procedures in place that govern the activities.

Two gates would also be installed along the site perimeter fence, each requiring 4 posts set in concrete, approximately 2 ft deep and 8 in wide. Vegetation management would consist of trimming vegetation near groundwater wells when required for access and will not include grubbing or the use of herbicides. Any ground disturbing activities would be of small-scale and would be limited to the use of hand-powered tools. Routine activities would occur throughout the year, depending on need. Annual sampling occurs in September, but could change depending on needs of the program.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 Routine Maintenance, B1.11 Fencing, and B3.1 Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 1021 (10 CFR 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 by the LM Director per DOE Policy 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified classes 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 Signature and
Determination Date**

Joyce E. Chavez Digitally signed by Joyce E. Chavez
Date: 2021.09.21 16:33:51 -06'00'

**U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management**



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