



**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.:** Amendment to LM 13-16, Conduct Verification and Validation Activity on Defense-Related Uranium Mine Sites on U.S. Bureau of Land Management Property (LM 13a-16).

**Location:** Various Locations in Utah and Colorado

**Proposed Action or Project Description:**

The proposed project would be to conduct verification and validation (V&V) activities on Defense-Related Uranium Mine (DRUM) sites on U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property in western Colorado and eastern Utah. V&V activities include describing physical site conditions, identifying all mining-related features, and assessing the physical hazard of each feature. To monitor worker safety and exposure, high-volume air samples (radioparticulate) and dose readings would be taken with field instruments. In addition, measurements would be taken to measure gamma exposure, radon, and metals in soils. The V&V activities would be conducted on a variety of BLM-owned sites in western Colorado and eastern Utah.

The proposed project was amended to include procurement of the services of a professional firm to provide high-resolution orthophotography, Pointcloud, 4D change detection, and thermal data imaging through the use of Unmanned Aerial System/Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAS/UAV) flight operations at select DRUM sites. UAS/UAV data would provide data to better understand site conditions and characteristics of the sites. All work would be performed in compliance with the most current version of the applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, as well as with applicable professional governing codes and state and local regulations. Prior to the start of work the subcontractor would provide copies of applicable certificates/licenses to the LMS contractor.

**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:**

- B3.1 – Site characterization and environmental monitoring
- B3.2 – Aviation activities that comply with FAA regulations

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.

*Tracy A. Ribeiro*

**Tracy A. Ribeiro**

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**NEPA Compliance Officer:**

**Date Determined:**