

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management



## NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

**Project Title and I.D. No.:** Install Aerial Survey Monuments and Conduct Aerial Surveys at the L-Bar, New Mexico, Disposal Site (LM 16-18)

**Location:** L-Bar, New Mexico, Disposal Site

**Proposed Action or Project Description:**

Nine aerial survey monuments would be constructed near the engineered disposal cell to provide reliable, repeatable monuments for aerial surveys. All of the monuments would be located adjacent to the existing disposal cell. A skid-steer loader, track-hoe, or back-hoe would be used to dig the holes to construct the monuments. Efforts would be made during monument construction to minimize areas of land disturbance. Care would be taken to drive the construction equipment on site roads or existing tracks to the extent possible, and potential wetlands would be avoided. Refueling of equipment would not occur on-site.

The surveys are expected to be conducted by unmanned aerial vehicles (also called drones), aircraft, or helicopters, depending on the types of sensors being used. The aerial remote sensing surveys would occur regularly. The aerial remote-sensing surveys would collect data using LiDAR, orthophotogrammetry, a thermal scanner, or a multispectral scanner that would be used to support long-term site management activity. Baseline surveys would be conducted in 2018; follow-on surveys would depend upon the results of the baseline survey.

**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:**

B1.3, Routine maintenance; B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring; B3.2 Aviation activities

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.

Joyce E. Chavez  
2018.06.05 14:35:39 -06'00'

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date Determined