



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Site Access Agreement for Fawn Creek Property at Rio Blanco, Colorado, Site

Location: Rio Blanco, Colorado, Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

DOE-LM is proposing to negotiate and prepare an access agreement with the Fawn Creek property owner at the Rio Blanco, Colorado site. These actions are necessary to allow access to the privately owned Fawn Creek property and continued groundwater sampling and routine well maintenance activities at DOE-owned wells, thereby ensuring continued public safety.

Groundwater sampling and routine well maintenance activities would occur using existing roads at DOE-owned monitoring wells RB-W-01 and RB-D-03. These actions subject to NEPA review were considered as part of Environmental Checklist LM 54-11. LM would begin negotiating the terms of the proposed access agreement in July 2018. It is expected that the access agreement would extend for 5 years to allow annual sampling of DOE-owned monitoring wells RB-W-01 and RB-D-03 through 2023.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.24 Property transfers

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
2018.07.20 11:21:39 -06'00'

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date Determined