



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Geoprobe Groundwater Sampling

Location: Naturita, Colorado, Processing Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

DOE LM is proposing to evaluate uranium concentrations in the alluvial groundwater downstream of the northern institutional control (IC) boundary of the Naturita, Colorado, Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title I Processing Site to determine if the boundary is sufficiently protective of human health and the environment. Proposed work would include borehole drilling via Geoprobe, which would allow sampling and characterizing the extent of uranium concentration downstream of the northernmost IC boundary to determine if the boundary is still protective of human health and the environment. Geoprobe activities would begin at the southernmost horizontal boundary at the Calamity Bridge and continue north downstream. Boreholes would be drilled to approximately 15 feet below ground surface (bgs). Groundwater samples would be collected from each borehole at approximately 11 feet bgs in the saturated alluvium. Upon retrieval of the groundwater sample, the Geoprobe steel rod would be lifted and if the borehole does not collapse, bentonite pellets backfill would be added to the small opening, filling the hole to ground surface. The samples would be analyzed for uranium concentration by a subcontractor laboratory. All proposed work would be conducted by the Legacy Management Support (LMS) contractor or a subcontractor under LMS supervision. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 process, LM reviewed the proposed undertaking in consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). LM determined that there were no adverse effects to historic property. LM submitted this determination in writing to the SHPO on June 24, 2020. Proposed activities would not commence until concurrence from the SHPO is received.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- 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 CHAVEZ Digitally signed by JOYCE CHAVEZ
Date: 2020.08.27 14:17:52 -06'00'