



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Routine Maintenance and Drilling, Monument Valley, Arizona, Processing Site

Location: Monument Valley, Arizona

Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM is proposing to continue to conduct routine activity at the Monument Valley site. This includes groundwater sampling and water level measurements at DOE wells, public wells, and surface water locations. A System Operation and Analysis at Remote Sites (SOARS) weather monitoring station and well transducers are also monitored and inspected on an annual basis or as-needed based on in-field issues (e.g., performance-related issues). The Monument Valley site does not have a regulatory requirement for site inspections, but the site is typically visually inspected during site visits; however, other factors could require more frequent inspections as requested (e.g., stakeholder feedback, episodic rain or wind events, or other weather-related issues). Nonintrusive visual inspections and other meetings (e.g., open houses, site tours) could include Navajo Nation representatives and other entities. Routine maintenance is normally identified during the site visits; however, various factors can require maintenance to be performed throughout the year to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Historically, routine maintenance has included repair or replacement of existing fence wire, posts, or both; removing sand along the fence line; performing road maintenance or repairs; performing well maintenance, repairs, or redevelopment; replacing damaged perimeter signs; repairing gates within the fence line; replacing padlocks; vegetation management; and removing trash. Drilling activity is conducted as needed to study groundwater or subsurface contamination, or both. Drilling locations are typically adjusted as needed to avoid sensitive resources. Drilling permit requests are the subject of section 106 consultation before their submittal to the Navajo Nation for approval. A pumping test is proposed to measure aquifer connectivity. Navajo Nation Water Code will be consulted and approval will be granted before conducting a pumping test.

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.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature and
Determination Date

Joyce E. Chavez Digitally signed by Joyce E. Chavez
Date: 2022.05.06 13:33:53 -06'00'