



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Routine Inspections, Maintenance, and Monitoring Activities at Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site

Location: Bluewater, New Mexico, UMTRCA Title II, Disposal Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM proposes to conduct routine inspections, maintenance, and monitoring activities at the Bluewater, New Mexico, UMTRCA Title II, Disposal Site. The routine activities would be performed to satisfy requirements documented in the Long-Term Surveillance Plan For the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site. Proposed activities would include the following:

- Information gathering, inspections, site visits, and tours
- Repairing or replacing perimeter signs, site markers, survey and boundary monuments, and locks, fencing, fence posts, and trash removal
- Performing vegetation management including vegetation trimming, mowing, reseeding, weed removal, and herbicide applications for weed control
- Maintenance, calibration, replacement, and removal of System Operation and Analysis at Remote Sites (SOARS) monitoring equipment
- Land surveying and installation, moving, and maintenance of wildlife cameras
- Placing or removing T-posts, survey markers, flagging pins, and so on, as needed to support site activities
- Maintaining groundwater monitoring wells, including performing well development activities and pump repairs
- Performing minor road or parking area repairs and onsite driving of vehicles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and utility vehicles to support field activities
- Monitoring activities, including groundwater monitoring and sampling on and offsite wells, vegetation and wildlife monitoring, and other non-ground intrusive monitoring to obtain information to support future site projects

Limitations and conditions of these routine activities include the following: Any placement of T-posts, fence or sign posts, markers, or digging into the ground would be limited to previously disturbed sites, using only hand-powered tools; the use of mechanized ground-disturbing equipment and tools would be excluded from this scope of work; fueling of gasoline- or diesel-powered tools or ATVs, if necessary, would be performed using an approved 5-gallon (or less) fuel container; and vehicle use will be limited to existing travel routes only.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A1 Routine DOE Business Actions
- A9 Information Gathering, Analysis, and Dissemination
- B1.3 Routine Maintenance
- B3.1 Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring
- B3.3 Research Related to Conservation of Fish, Wildlife, and Cultural Resources

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.



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- 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: 2022.07.21 14:09:36 -06'00'
