



## NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

**Project Title:** Environmental Sampling and Mud Cap Inspections

**Location:** Amchitka, Alaska, Site

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### Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM is proposing to collect environmental samples on and around Amchitka Island, Alaska, to monitor for migration of selected residual radionuclides from three underground nuclear test cavities and confirm food chain safety. In addition, mud pit cover systems would be inspected to assess integrity and vegetation and to provide photographic documentation. The work would be in keeping with responsible practices and commitments made to the Amchitka Working Group stakeholders.

Amchitka Island is part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A USFWS special use permit has been granted and authorizes access to the island. Some sample sites are on private conveyed lands (under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) and would require additional approval by the Aleut Corporation to access. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game would issue Aquatic Resource Permits for the collection of aquatic biota samples, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission would issue a permit for the collection of Pacific halibut.

The proposed activities would be scheduled between May and September 2023. The work would be performed by the Legacy Management Support contractor with assistance from subcontracted vessel staff.

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### Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A1 Routine DOE business actions
- A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination
- B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring
- B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources
- B1.24 Property transfers

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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.

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**NEPA Compliance Officer Signature and  
Determination Date**

**JOYCE CHAVEZ** Digitally signed by JOYCE CHAVEZ  
Date: 2023.02.27 15:00:00 -07'00'