



## NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

**Project Title:** Routine Activities at Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico, Disposal Site

**Location:** Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico, Disposal Site

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**Proposed Action or Project Description:**

LM proposes to perform routine site inspections, maintenance, and monitoring activities at the Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico, Disposal Site as required by the site's Long-Term Surveillance Plan and Groundwater Compliance Action Plan.

Inspections, site visits, and site tours would be performed to inspect the site and its features and assets noninvasively and visually for informational gathering or sharing purposes. At a minimum, the site would be inspected annually.

Routine maintenance and monitoring activities would include the following: maintenance on signs, monuments, and survey markers; fence and gate repair and replacement; vegetation management, monitoring, and pollinator studies; maintenance of monitoring wells and pads; minor road repairs; trash removal; groundwater monitoring and sampling; land surveying; and other nonground-intrusive monitoring. A System Operation and Analysis at Remote Sites (SOARS) station and associated instrumentation and equipment would be installed, operated, inspected, calibrated, maintained, repaired, modified, upgraded, replaced, or removed, as necessary.

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**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:**

A.1 Routine DOE Business Actions

A.9 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

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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: 2023.04.11 08:50:07 -06'00'