



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Conduct Borehole Drilling and Piezometer Installations

Location: Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

Conduct a groundwater source investigation, to include boring and piezometer installations at the Rifle disposal site located in Garfield County, Colorado. The proposed work would commence during the summer of 2021, pending COVID-19 restrictions and contract transition constraints. The investigation would serve to study potential groundwater sources to the disposal cell's leachate collection system. Twenty-five potential locations have been identified and up to eight soil borings and well installations would be planned adjacent to the disposal cell to examine the potential for cross gradient and sub gradient groundwater sources and flow. The wells would be paired (5–10 feet apart) with 8 boring locations of either a shallow well extending to depths up to 40 feet, or deeper wells completed to a maximum depth of 300 feet. No access agreements would be needed. Work would be performed utilizing a subcontractor under Legacy Management Support contractor oversight. Necessary well permits would be obtained through the Colorado Department of Natural Resources Division of Water Resources.

Plant and eagle nest surveys would be conducted for the Debeque phacelia (*Phacelia submutica*) and the golden eagle, respectively. If either are found, a consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be conducted and work would not commence until the consultation was completed.

A National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation was initiated with the submission of a finding of "no historic properties subject to effect" in correspondence to the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer on March 19, 2021. Proposed work would not commence until the consultation process is complete.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.3 Routine Maintenance
- 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.

**U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management**



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**NEPA Compliance Officer Signature and
Determination Date**

TRACY RIBEIRO Digitally signed by TRACY RIBEIRO
Date: 2021.04.19 14:33:37 -06'00'
