



## NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

**Project Title:** Well abandonment and site reclamation at Bronco Plowshare Site, Rio Blanco County, CO

**Location:** Bronco, Colorado, Site

### Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM is proposing to plug and abandon well USBM/AEC CCH#2 and reclaim the site well pad in accordance with U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requirements. The site is along an existing road, and no access roads would be required. Well abandonment and site reclamation activities are within the scope of the Plowshare Program mission to close out remaining LM liabilities at these sites, including the Bronco site.

The proposed action would include all activities associated with well plugging, well abandonment, and site reclamation. The disturbed well pad is covered in desirable vegetation as a result of natural succession. Less than .5 acre would be disturbed by plugging and abandonment activities. Proposed activities would include a scoping visit with a limited pre-disturbance vegetation survey. The borehole would be plugged and abandoned in accordance with BLM methods. The borehole was drilled to a total depth of 2214 feet (ft) below ground surface with a 6-inch surface casing that rises approximately 4 ft above the ground. Stormwater controls would be used as required. Reclamation would require that the site reach final reclamation status as determined by BLM. Additional activities may include general site visits to support vegetation management until final status is reached. There would be no long-term maintenance following site reclamation. The proposed activities are scheduled to occur between April and October 2021.

### Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A9, B1.3, B3.1, B5.3

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

TRACY RIBEIRO Digitally signed by TRACY RIBEIRO  
Date: 2021.05.17 15:44:17 -06'00'