



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Routine Inspection, Maintenance, and Monitoring Activities at Slick Rock, Colorado, Disposal/Processing Site

Location: Slick Rock, Colorado, Disposal/Processing Site (Slick Rock East and Slick Rock West)

Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM proposes to conduct routine inspection, monitoring, and maintenance activities at the Slick Rock, Colorado, Disposal/Processing Site (Slick Rock East and Slick Rock West), located in western San Miguel County. Proposed activities would be conducted in accordance with the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title I. The following routine activities would be performed throughout the year as necessary:

Inspections: The Slick Rock site would be visually inspected annually; however, more frequent inspections could be required. Nonintrusive visual inspections and other meetings onsite could be conducted. Additionally, rangeland health assessments, vegetation monitoring, and threatened and endangered species surveys would be conducted when required. Inspections would occur on foot, with vehicles restricted to established roads, or in all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or utility task vehicles as needed in locations that are off rock riprap areas associated with the disposal cell.

Monitoring: Proposed monitoring activities would include conducting annual surface water and groundwater sampling at the processing sites (Slick Rock East and Slick Rock West) and surveying locations and features to generate and maintain spatially accurate databases, maps, or other documents. Additionally, the System Operation and Analysis at Remote Sites weather monitoring station would also be monitored and inspected on annually or as needed based on in-field issues.

Maintenance: The following routine noninvasive activities would occur and would be performed throughout the year: well redevelopment and purging activities; general well maintenance, including well pad maintenance, replacement, or repair; wellhead repair or replacement; and repairing or replacing well equipment such as pumps, casings, well mounts, etc.; replacing damaged perimeter signs or posts, installing or repairing gates and fences, replacing padlocks, and trash removal; regrading parking areas and road repair; repairing or replacing site features such as boundary monuments, site markers, or quality control structures for aerial surveys; conducting vegetation management activities (removal, trimming, and herbicide application), mowing, and repairing existing stormwater and erosion control features.

To the extent possible, all vehicles onsite would stay on existing travel routes. Personnel may occasionally need to travel off-road, in previously disturbed areas, to conduct maintenance and inspection activities. If required during maintenance and monitoring activities, fueling of gas-powered hand tools or ATVs would be performed using a 5-gallon fuel container with spill containment in place and spill kit on hand. An LM Support (LMS) contractor pesticide applicator would perform herbicide application activities onsite using established application practices and procedures. If there are specific concerns or issues with herbicide application, the LMS pesticide applicator must contact the Environmental Compliance point of contact for further guidance.

The proposed work would not result in impacts to protected resources or require permits, consultations, or related actions. Nonroutine activities at these sites would require additional environmental review and would not be covered under this evaluation.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A9 Information Gathering, Analysis, and Dissemination
- B1.3 Routine Maintenance
- B1.11 Fencing
- 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



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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**

Joyce E. Chavez

Digitally signed by Joyce E. Chavez
Date: 2022.08.02 08:10:00 -06'00'