



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Routine Inspections, Monitoring, and Maintenance at the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal and Processing Sites

Location: Rifle, Colorado, Disposal and Processing Sites

Proposed Action or Project Description:

To conduct routine activities throughout the year at the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal and Processing Sites, including inspections, monitoring, and maintenance. These activities are necessary to satisfy LM's general license requirements in Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 40.27 (10 CFR 40.27) as the long-term custodian of the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site (Rifle disposal site) and the requirements of 40 CFR 192, "Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings," for the Old and New Rifle, Colorado, Processing Sites (Old and New Rifle sites). Activities could include:

- Nonintrusive visual inspections and other meetings onsite that could include local stakeholders and representatives from other governmental entities.
- Monitoring activities, which include rangeland health assessments, ecological surveys, ground and well surveys, water sampling and elevation monitoring in standpipes at the Rifle disposal site, and semiannual groundwater and surface water sampling at Rifle processing sites. System Operation and Analysis at Remote Sites (SOARS) monitoring stations would be monitored and inspected on a semiannual basis or as needed.
- Routine maintenance activities, which include replacing damaged perimeter signs, repairing gates and fences, replacing padlocks, removing trash, regrading parking areas, road repair, vegetation management (trimming and herbicide application), erosion control, evaporation pond liner repair at the Rifle disposal site, and SOARS maintenance.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A1 Routine DOE business actions
- A9 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

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 E. Chavez

Digitally signed by Joyce E. Chavez
Date: 2022.08.01 08:44:46 -06'00'