



## 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 the Gunnison, Colorado, Disposal and Processing Sites

**Location:** Gunnison, Colorado, Disposal and Processing Sites – UMTRCA Title I sites

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### Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM routinely inspects and maintains the Gunnison, Colorado, Disposal Site and monitors the associated processing site for surface water and groundwater quality. Continued long-term surveillance and maintenance, environmental sampling, and land management activities are necessary to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment in accordance with LM's mission and regulatory requirements.

Routine activities include:

- Well sampling, purging, redevelopment, and repairing or replacing well equipment, such as pumps, casings, well mounts, and so on.
- Well pad and wellhead replacement or repair.
- Mowing, trimming, or removing vegetation from the immediate vicinity of sampling wells to facilitate sampling.
- Accessing sampling locations using established roads and previously established routes with no vehicle use in other areas.
- Inspecting the site on foot, with vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility task vehicles (UTVs), restricted to established roads.
- Applying herbicide to noxious weed infestations, using established practices and procedures, via backpack sprayers, hoses, or similar equipment; ATVs and UTVs are restricted to established roads only.
- Fence maintenance, including post replacement in the same location, fence wire or fabric repairs, gate installation or replacement in the existing fence line, or similar activities.
- Repairing or replacing site features, such as boundary markers or site monuments, perimeter signs, or posts (including concrete bases) in the same location.
- Fueling gas-powered hand tools in accordance with a routine maintenance job safety analysis (LMS/PRO/S16030 LMS-004), using a 5-gallon approved fuel container with spill containment in place and a spill kit on hand.
- Performing all activities in compliance with the *Programmatic Biological Assessment of Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Activities at the Gunnison, Colorado, Disposal/Processing Sites* (LMS/GUP/GUD/S13537, Rev. 1), including compliance with a restricted schedule for site access.
- Changes to routine activities would be subject to approval by Environmental Compliance and may require further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review.

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### Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.3 Routine maintenance
- B1.11 Fencing
- B1.24 Property transfers
- B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring

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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

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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 CHAVEZ Digitally signed by JOYCE CHAVEZ  
Date: 2023.05.04 09:15:05 -06'00'