



**U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management  
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form**



**Program or Field Office:** Office of Legacy Management

**Project Title and I.D. No.:** Install three groundwater monitoring wells at the Shoal, Nevada, Site. LM # 06-14

**Location:** Shoal, Nevada, Site near Fallon, Nevada

**Proposed Action or Project Description:**

DOE proposes to install two groundwater monitoring wells (MV-4 and MV-5) and deepen an existing groundwater monitoring well (HC-2, to be renamed HC-2d) on the Shoal site. One underground nuclear test was conducted at the Shoal site in 1963, which was code-named Project shoal. MV- 4 would be located on a former drill pad that originally contained a monitoring borehole that was abandoned after the nuclear test was conducted in 1963. MV-5 would be located near an area disturbed during actions related to Project Shoal. The drill pads for MV-4 and HC-2 would be rehabilitated, which would minimize new disturbance. At each location, onsite earthen materials would be moved and compacted to provide a drill pad working area measuring approximately 150- by 200–square–feet. Each drill pad would be constructed with a mud pit to contain drilling fluids and drill cuttings. A rotary drill rig would be used for well installation and all wells would be installed to a depth of approximately 2,100 feet below ground surface. An existing offsite stock well would be used as a water source for drill pad compaction, source water for drilling, and dust control. Site personnel would conduct real-time testing for tritium in accordance with requirements stated in the Nevada State-approved Fluid Management Plan. No tritium or other contaminants of concern are expected to be present. Existing dirt roads would be used to access the wells within the Shoal site.

**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:**

B3.1 (c): Categorical exclusions applicable to site characterization, monitoring, and general research: drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater.

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 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 under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) 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:**

**Date Determined:**