

**U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management  
National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Checklist**

**Project/Activity:** Reclamation Projects on Wedding Bell Mountain Lease Tract C-WM-17, Uranium Leasing Program

**A. Brief Project/Activity Description**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes several minor reclamation activities related to abandoned mines and mine features that pose a public safety concern. In 2007, LM inherited abandoned mines as a result of re-aligning lease tract boundaries. Independent contractors associated with the lessee (Golden Eagle Uranium) and under the supervision of uranium leasing program personnel would complete the work, and all projects would be completed within approximately 2 days. The Wedding Bell Mountain Lease Tract C-WM-17 is located in southwestern Montrose County, Colorado. The total estimated surface disturbance would cover 1 acre.

A subsidence is located on the Radium Hill No. 10 Mine. On-site waste-rock materials would be pushed into the subsidence using heavy equipment. After final grading was completed, surface areas would be seeded with an appropriate seed mixture. An open vent, located on the nearby Broken Mug Claim that is associated with the mine, also needs to be closed. The vent would be permanently closed with a polyurethane foam plug and then covered with surface soil materials and reseeded with an approved seed mixture.

There are no cultural resources present in these highly disturbed areas nor is there habitat present for protected species. The proposed work would be conducted in 2010 and after migratory bird breeding and nesting periods were over.

**B. Environmental Concerns**

Evaluate the following elements and indicate by checking "yes" or "no" if any phase of the project/activity would result in a change or impact that is subject to regulatory permits, controls, or plans or that would require additional evaluation. If the "yes" column is checked, provide a brief explanation below and attach sheets with additional detail as necessary or appropriate.

| Element  | Yes                                 | No                                  | Element  | Yes                      | No                                  |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Air emissions/air quality                                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exposure/impacts to public or workers                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Noise  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Need for public awareness/involvement                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Solid waste generation                                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Transportation/traffic control required                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mixed waste management                                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Access to/use of DOE property                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Chemical storage on site                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Visual resources impacted                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pesticide/herbicide use                                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cultural/archaeological resources present                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Toxic substances management                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Wetland/floodplain impacted                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Regulated quantities of petroleum used or stored on site | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Protected species present: federal, state, or tribe listed | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Radioactive materials/soils                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Migratory birds breeding or nesting                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Surface (ground) disturbance                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Wild/scenic rivers impacted                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Surface water use/contamination                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Prime/unique farmlands present                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Surface water quality                                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Groundwater use/contamination                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Groundwater quality affected                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other considerations                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**C. Explanation and Qualification of All “Yes” Responses**

Surface (ground) disturbance: Reclamation actions would result in minor surface disturbance. The long-term benefit would be improved habitat and removal of a safety hazard.

**D. Eligibility/Conditions**

The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 1021 (10 CFR 1021). DOE has determined that these classes of actions do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment (see 10 CFR 1021.410). There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may increase the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action, and the proposed action is not “connected” to other actions with potentially significant impacts. Finally, the action is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

**E. Recommendation**

The proposed reclamation of the subsided area and open vent are allowable actions under Criterion B1.28 of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021, “Minor activities that are required to place a facility in an environmentally safe condition where there is no proposed use for the facility” and under B1.3, Routine maintenance.

Meets Criteria

Does Not Meet Criteria

Unsure

**F. NEPA Determination**

The scope of actions proposed under Section A of this Environmental Checklist, and the information relevant to the potential for environmental impacts in Section B have been reviewed, and the following has been determined:

- The proposed actions meet the criteria for categorical exclusion.
- The proposed actions do not meet the criteria for categorical exclusion; therefore, I recommend that the LM NEPA Planning Board be convened based on my recommendation (see attached rationale) to complete:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> an Interim Action.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> an Environmental Assessment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an Environmental Impact Statement. | <input type="checkbox"/> a Supplemental Analysis.     |

## Concurrences

**Project/Activity:** Reclamation Projects on Wedding Bell Mountain Lease Tract C-WM-17, Uranium Leasing Program

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>LM Site Name</b><br>Wedding Bell<br>Mountain Lease Tract<br>C-WM-17 | <b>LM Site Program</b><br>Uranium Leasing Program                         |   |
| <b>Contractor<br/>NEPA Coordinator</b><br>Sandy Beranich               | <b>Signature</b><br><i>Sandra Beranich</i> 2010.07.27 17:37:59<br>-06'00' | <b>Date</b>   |
| <b>Contractor Program<br/>Lead</b><br>Ed Cotter                        | <b>Signature</b><br><i>Ed Cotter</i> 2010.07.28<br>07:12:31 -06'00'       | <b>Date</b>   |
| <b>LM Program<br/>Manager</b><br>Laura Kilpatrick                      | <b>S</b><br><i>Laura E. Kilpatrick</i>                                    | <b>Date</b><br>Laura E. Kilpatrick<br>DOE LM - Rocky Flats<br>2010.07.28 09:35:20 -06'00' |
| <b>LM NEPA<br/>Compliance Officer</b><br>Tracy Ribeiro                 | <b>Signature</b><br><i>Tracy A. Ribeiro</i>                               | <b>Date</b><br>7/30/10  |

Distribution upon signature:

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