

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

Project/Activity: New Verde Mine Investigations, Lease Tract C-G-26, Uranium Leasing Program

A. Brief Project/Activity Description

Energy Fuels Resources Corporation (EFRC), lessee to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management, proposes to evaluate former mine workings associated with the New Verde Mine on Lease Tract C-G-26 in preparation for potential future mine development. This lease tract is on Calamity Mesa, along the southern flank of the Uncompahgre Plateau in southwestern Mesa County. The mine site would be accessed by workers on a former mine access road and on public roads.

A bulkhead, approximately 6 feet (ft) high and 9 ft wide, was constructed of concrete blocks in 1996 to seal the northern-most mine portal. Approximately four workers would access the portal by overland foot travel (about 200 yards along the former access road) and use hand tools (e.g., hammers, mallets) to break out some portion of the bulkhead. They would open up enough of the bulkhead for workers to enter the mine workings. Before entering the mine, air monitoring would be conducted to ensure worker safety, and if necessary, respirators would be used. A health and safety person would be a member of the crew. EFRC has staff personnel who are qualified to determine if bad ground conditions or other hazardous conditions exist inside the mine and who are trained in mine rescue.

Mine workers would evaluate mine conditions along identified drifts of interest, and they would also identify locations for potential vent holes. All investigations would be terminated if unsafe conditions are encountered.

It is anticipated that all work would be completed within 2 days. After completion of the mine inspection, the portion of the bulkhead that was removed would be replaced with similar materials, or, if the entire bulkhead was removed, a secure metal gate with a lock would be installed. ERFC would like to conduct this investigation in August in conjunction with proposed reclamation actions on the same lease tract that were evaluated in a recent Environmental Checklist (LM-27-10).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exposure/impacts to public or workers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Migratory birds breeding or nesting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface (ground) disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

Concurrences

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LM Site Name New Verde Mine Investigations LT C-G-26	LM Site Program Uranium Leasing Program	
Contractor NEPA Coordinator Sandy Beranich	Signature <i>Sandra Beranich</i> 2010.08.04 12:21:45 -06'00'	Date
Contractor Program Lead Ed Cotter	Signature <i>Ed Cotter</i> 2010.08.04 13:18:06 -06'00'	Date
LM Program Manager Laura Kilpatrick	Signature <i>Laura E. Kilpatrick</i>	Date Laura E. Kilpatrick DOE LM - Rocky Flats 2010.08.05 16:02:12 -06'00'
LM NEPA Compliance Officer Rich Bush	Signature <i>Rich Bush</i>	Date 8/10/10

Distribution upon signature:

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