

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR SMALL MAMMAL SAMPLING NEAR
WASTE MANAGEMENT AREA C, 200 EAST AREA,
HANFORD SITE, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON**

Proposed Action

The U.S. Department of Energy, (DOE) Office of River Protection (ORP) and the Richland Operations Office (RL) propose to conduct trapping and sampling of small mammals near Waste Management Area C (WMA C), in FY 2011.

Location of Action

The work will take place near and around the perimeter of WMA C, located within the 200 East Area, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action, small mammal live trapping and sampling, will be performed near and around the perimeter of WMA C as part of a screening level ecological risk assessment for WMA C. The primary small mammal species targeted for collection in the study include deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), pocket mice (*Perognathus parvus*), and western harvest mice (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*). All non-target or protected species will be immediately released as required by RPP-PLAN-39114, *Phase 2 RCRA Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study Work Plan for Waste Management Area C*.

Three transect areas (one perimeter and two habitat) of live traps will be placed to accommodate the shape of the investigation area. For the perimeter transect, traps will be spaced systematically at approximately 25 m intervals along the perimeter fence line of WMA C. Two habitat transect areas will be established in vegetation communities adjacent to and outside of WMA C boundary. Habitat transects will each consist of at least three staggered trap lines. Up to five traps will be placed along each trap line transect, with the distance between traps and trap lines to be approximately 25 m. Each habitat transect group will have a minimum of 10 traps. Figure 1, below, shows the three approximate transect areas, and Figure 2, below, shows the approximate locations of the staggered transect lines and traps.

The trapping will occur over a sufficient number of nights to obtain at least six sample animals for each transect group. The number of trap-days required to collect at least six animals per transect group will be recorded. This will provide a relative measure of animal density. A minimum of six animals per transect group will be harvested and combined into two composite samples per transect group for analysis. The composite samples will be used to determine the average concentration of contaminants of potential ecological concern at the transect that are available for uptake to higher trophic species through the dietary pathway. Collection of a small number of additional animals will occur to support preparation of necessary quality control samples.

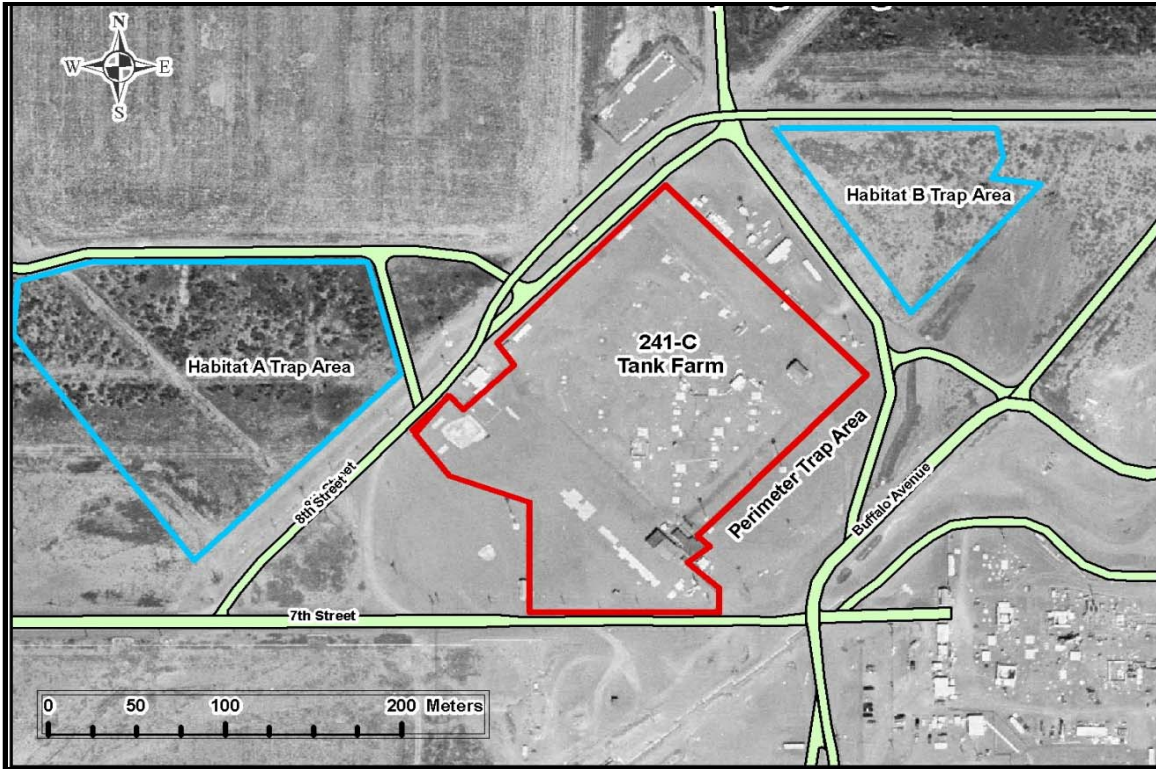


Figure 1. WMA C small mammal sampling design showing the three transect areas.

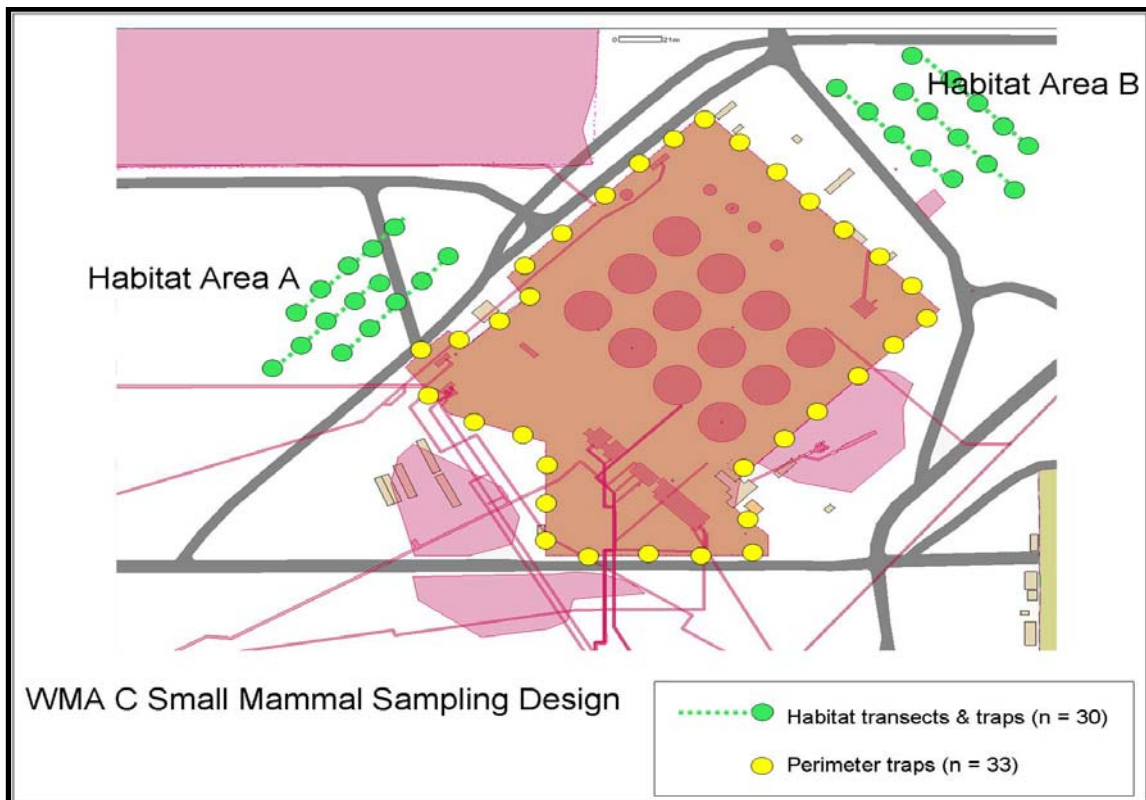


Figure 2. Sampling design showing staggered transect lines and approximate trap locations.

Categorical Exclusions to be Applied

The following categorical exclusions (CXs) are listed in 10 CFR 1021, “National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedure,” Subpart D, Appendix B, published in the Tuesday, July 9, 1996, 61 Federal Register 36222:

- B3.1 Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operations of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, and radar), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, including the establishment of survey marks;
 - (b) Installation and operation of field instruments, such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools;
 - (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells;
 - (d) Aquifer response testing;
 - (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment;
 - (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants;
 - (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams;
 - (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities, including assessment of potential wind energy resources;
 - (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and
 - (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

Eligibility Criteria

Since no extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal have been identified, the proposed activity meets the eligibility criteria of 10 CFR 1021.410(b), as shown in the following table. The proposed activity is not “connected” to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25[a][1]), or with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25[a][2]), and is not precluded by 10 CFR 1021.211.

The “Integral Elements” of 10 CFR 1021 are satisfied as discussed below.

INTEGRAL ELEMENTS, 10 CFR 1021, SUBPART D, APPENDIX B	
Would the Proposed Action	Comment or Explanation
Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders?	No applicable laws, regulations, or orders would be violated by the proposed actions.
Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment facilities (including incinerators)? The proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment actions.	Action does not require siting and construction of waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment facilities.
Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases?	There will be no uncontrolled or unpermitted releases associated with the proposed actions.
Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources including but not limited to: (i) Property (e.g., sites, buildings, structures, objects) of historic, archeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. (ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat), Federally proposed or candidate species or their habitat or state-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat. (iii) Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) and floodplains. (iv) Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, and marine sanctuaries. (v) Prime agricultural lands. (vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region). (vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rainforests?	None of the environmentally sensitive resources listed (i through vii) will be adversely affected by the proposed actions. (i) Proposed action does not adversely affect historical/cultural resources (ii) Proposed action does not adversely affect ecological resources (iii) N/A (iv) N/A (v) N/A (vi) N/A (vii) N/A

Documentation for each use of the categorical exclusions would be maintained according to contractor procedures and DOE requirements.

Compliance Action: I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the referenced Categorical Exclusions. Therefore, using the authority delegated to me by DOE Order 451.1B, Change 1, I have determined that the proposed activities may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Signature/Date: *R. W. Russell* *11/3/10*
R. W. Russell III
Hanford NEPA Compliance Officer