



**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.:** Surface Water and Groundwater Sampling Near the Naturita, Colorado Title I Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) Processing Site. LM # 09-12.

**Location:** Naturita, Colorado

**Proposed Action or Project Description:**

DOE proposes to sample water from nine different locations in an area near the former Naturita processing site to assess the extent of groundwater contamination and the effectiveness of existing institutional controls. The area under evaluation is located on private property about 3 miles northwest of the town of Naturita. Water samples would be taken from three surface water locations and six groundwater locations. For five of the groundwater sampling locations a Geoprobe rig would be used to advance the sample probe to approximately 3 feet below the water table. The remaining groundwater sample would be taken from an existing monitoring well. Field water quality parameters would be measured at each sampling location, followed by collection of two samples for uranium analysis. Samples would be collected according to LM standard sampling methods. The combined volume of surface and groundwater used in the sampling event would be approximately 30 gallons. Once the groundwater samples are collected the boreholes would be abandoned by filling them with bentonite materials in compliance with the Colorado State Engineer's Office requirements for well abandonment. A cultural resources inventory was completed for the project area. Final concurrence on the "No Effect" determination from the State Historic Preservation Office, an updated access agreement with the property owner, and any applicable permits would be obtained prior to beginning any work. If sample analysis results indicate a uranium value above the UMTRCA standard then additional investigation may be needed. If results are lower than the UMTRCA standard then institutional control delineations may be reconsidered. Environmental concerns have been evaluated for this project. Ground disturbance would be minimal and all actions were found to be categorically excluded from further evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:**

B3.1 Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring

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.

*Tracy S. Ribeiro*  
NEPA Compliance Officer:

07/13/12  
Date Determined: