

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management



Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed action title: Sonic Well Drilling at the Riverton, Wyoming, Processing Site in Support of Revised Groundwater Compliance Action Plan (GCAP)

Program or field office: Office of Legacy Management (LM)

LM Categorical Exclusion Evaluation no.: LM 16 - 26

Location(s) (LM site name or city, county, state): Riverton, Wyoming, Processing Site

Proposed Action Description
LM proposes to conduct 12 sonic drilling core samples at the Riverton, Wyoming, Processing Site, located approximately 2 miles southwest of Riverton in Fremont County, Wyoming. LM would complete two of these core-sampling locations as conventional groundwater monitoring wells. LM would perform these proposed activities to support ongoing field characterization efforts. The resulting data would define the total mass and potential mobility of contaminants encountered at various depths within the saturated and unsaturated zones of the uppermost alluvial aquifer. Drilling for proposed core sampling and well installation would reach depths of approximately 10 to 20 feet below ground surface. The proposed drilling locations are located on private property within the boundary of the Wind River Reservation. Specifically, LM would drill within and near a former tailings area and at select locations in the St. Stephen's Mission Area near the Little Wind River. LM would use the characterization data to update the conceptual site model, construct a reactive transport model, and revise the Groundwater Compliance Action Plan to establish a scientifically defensible compliance strategy. The proposed action aligns with LM's goal of protecting human health and the environment.
Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied
B1.3 – Routine maintenance
B3.1 – Site characterization and environmental monitoring
B1.13 – Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines

For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 1021.102 (10 CFR 1021.102) and Appendix B to [10 CFR 1021](#), and also Section 5.4 (*Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal*) and Appendixes B and C to DOE's [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Implementing Procedures](#) (June 30, 2025).

Requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures: (*see full text in regulation and in implementing procedures*)

☒ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR 1021 or Appendix B and C to DOE's NEPA implementing procedures.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA implementing procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR 1021 and DOE's NEPA procedures.

☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. DOE or an applicant may modify the proposal to avoid reasonably foreseeable adverse significant effects such that the categorical exclusion would apply.

☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

[**Note:** For proposals that fit within the categorical exclusions listed in Appendix C to DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, see DOE's notice of adoption for the subject Appendix C categorical exclusion for additional considerations. DOE notices of adoption for other agency categorical exclusions may be found on DOE's [Section 109: Adopting Categorical Exclusions](#) webpage.]

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA compliance officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NICOLE
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NICOLE OLIN
Date: 2026.08.17
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NEPA Compliance Officer
Select "Lock document after signing" upon signature.

Date determined