



**U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management  
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form**



**Program or Field Office:** Office of Legacy Management (LM)

**Project Title and I.D. No.:** Plowshare Program Site Visits in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. (LM 22-16).

**Location:** Various (see below)

**Proposed Action or Project Description:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Legacy Management (LM) provides long-term surveillance and monitoring of DOE sites. A number of sites not currently managed by LM that are associated with the Plowshare Program (circa 1959 to 1972) may transition to LM responsibility in the near future. A limited series of site visits to a sample of the Plowshare Program project locations are proposed to establish a better understanding of the long-term management and liability issues associated with these types of properties. A total of five sites would be visited as part of this activity. They are:

- Pinot, Colorado—U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ownership; detonation in a mine
- Pre-Schooner II, Idaho—BLM ownership; surface cratering project
- Pre-Gondola, Montana—U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service ownership; surface cratering project
- Wagon Wheel, Wyoming—El Paso Natural Gas Company ownership; subsurface gasification project
- Utah, Utah—State of Utah ownership; former drilling site

A small team of professionals would visit each site to make observations, take photographs, and collect spatial data (i.e., linear measurements and location coordinates). The site visits would have minimal impacts. No off-road driving (i.e., driving off of established trails or roads) would occur. No samples would be collected. Unmanned aerial vehicles may be used to passively collect spatial and spectral data at the larger sites.

**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:**

- A9 – Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination
- B3.2 – Aviation activities that comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations

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.

**NEPA Compliance Officer:**

**Date Determined:**