

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management



## NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

**Program or Field Office:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM)

**Project Title and I.D. No.:** Install Aerial Survey Monuments, Conduct Road Maintenance, and Install Gate at the Mexican Hat, Utah, UMTRCA Title I Disposal Site (LM 07-18)

**Location:** Mexican Hat, Utah, Disposal Site

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**Proposed Action or Project Description:**

LM is proposing to construct permanent aerial survey monument markers at the Mexican Hat site. Additionally, the existing one-lane access road would be repaired as needed to facilitate access to work areas and a new gate would be installed. The monuments would provide reliable, repeatable monuments for future aerial surveys to be conducted by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), aircraft, or helicopters, depending on the types of sensors being used. The data being collected are expected to facilitate the long-term management of the engineered cover at this disposal cell. The proposed road maintenance and repair activities would likely include minor grading and the replacement of eroded materials using heavy equipment.

The permanent aerial survey monument markers would be squares of concrete, approximately 4 feet x 4 feet in size. Up to nine markers would be installed around the boundary of the disposal cell. Construction of the monuments would require the use of mechanical excavation equipment such as a backhoe.

The permanent aerial survey monument markers would likely be installed during the spring of 2018, and the work is expected to take less than 1 week to complete. Road maintenance and repair activities would take place on an as needed basis to facilitate access to work areas throughout the next several years.

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**Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:**

B1.3 Routine Maintenance

B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines

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For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 1021 (10 CFR 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 by the LM Director per DOE Policy 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified classes of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

*Tracy A. Ribeiro*

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NEPA Compliance Officer

Date Determined