



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Building 7 Parcel Phase 1 at the LM Office at Grand Junction: Investigative and Geotechnical Work

Location: Grand Junction, Colorado

Proposed Action or Project Description:

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is proposing to conduct investigative and geotechnical activities in support of improvements and new construction for the Building 7 parcel project north of the leased LM office at Grand Junction, Colorado. This would be part of a phased plan to modernize and increase capacity for a growing workforce.

DOE and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are working with an architect/engineer (A/E) design firm to develop plans and specifications in support of improvements and new construction for the Building 7 parcel project, which would consist of approximately three phases. This CXE only addresses Phase 1 activities; proposed Phase 2 and 3 activities would be evaluated during future environmental reviews.

During Phase 1, investigative utility work and geotechnical work would be conducted to support design-build specifications for future property improvements. The work would consist of drilling and sampling at eight locations within the project site. Borehole locations were chosen to characterize subsurface conditions at the property to determine future engineering design limitations. A truck-mounted (or similar type) drill rig would be utilized. Soil samples would be obtained through an auger attached to the drill rig. Sampling would occur at 2.5-foot intervals from the ground surface. The eight proposed drilling and sampling locations are within the existing fence line. Proposed activities are anticipated to commence in August 2020 and would be performed by a subcontractor hired by the USACE A/E design firm. Oversight would be provided by the A/E firm.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106 process, LM reviewed the proposed undertaking in consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). LM determined that there were no adverse effects to historic property. LM submitted this determination in writing to the SHPO on April 2, 2020. Proposed work would not commence until the NHPA process is complete.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring

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.



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- 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.

**NEPA Compliance Officer Signature and
Determination Date**

Tracy A. Ribeiro Digitally signed by Tracy A. Ribeiro
Date: 2020.08.07 14:01:14 -06'00'
