



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Flush Mount Monitoring Wells Conversion, Hallam, Nebraska, Decommissioned Reactor Site

Location: Hallam, Nebraska (NE)

Proposed Action or Project Description:

Replace the current aboveground wellhead portion of the vertical monitoring wells at the Hallam, Nebraska, Decommissioned Reactor Site, with flush-mounted wellheads. This work is necessary to prevent future damage from ongoing site operations, since the wells in question are located in high traffic areas. Proposed replacement would involve the conversion of nine monitoring wells, by replacing the aboveground well casings with flush mount wells per the project Statement of Work. The wells to be modified are all located on existing asphalt surfaces within the Hallam site's footprint. Existing concrete pads, bollards, aboveground protective well casings would be demolished, and waste would be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved facility. A new flush-mounted well with a removable protective cover would be installed on a newly constructed concrete pad at each of the nine locations. A subcontractor would perform the work with oversight from the Legacy Management Support contractor. The wellheads do not contribute to the historic nature of the Hallam site. These proposed well configuration changes are considered routine environmental monitoring maintenance activities and would commence in spring 2021.

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.
- 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**

JOYCE CHAVEZ Digitally signed by JOYCE CHAVEZ
Date: 2020.10.29 13:11:21 -06'00'