



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Redevelopment of Standpipe (MW-02) at the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site (LM 25-19)

Location: Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM is proposing to redevelop one standpipe (MW-02) in the disposal cell toe at the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site to clear the standpipe of biofouling and inorganic mineral scale formation. This would increase productivity of the standpipe pumping associated with the leachate collection pumping system.

The proposed action includes the redevelopment of one standpipe (MW-02) in the disposal cell toe at the site. Redevelopment would involve mechanical scrubbing of the standpipe and chemical cleaning and disinfection. All disrupted material would be bailed or pumped from the standpipe, along with all material and liquid discharged through the scrubbing, cleaning, and disinfection process, and placed into the onsite evaporation pond. Redevelopment of the standpipe (MW-02) in the disposal cell toe at the site would involve:

- Collecting a water sample from the standpipe for field measurement of pH and conductivity.
- Pulling the piping and pump from the standpipe.
- Mechanically scrubbing the interior of the standpipe using a tight-fitting surge block or brush.
- Bailing or pumping the disrupted material from the standpipe and fully evacuate the standpipe until the discharge becomes clear.
- Collecting material and liquid discharged during bailing for disposal in the onsite evaporation pond.
- Purging the well until observable turbidity is absent; collecting purge water and disposing of it in the onsite evaporation pond.
- Performing disinfection by placing sodium hypochlorite (bleach), NW-410 (a chlorine enhancer), and water to obtain a pH of 6.5–7.0 (similar to the pH of the standpipe) into the perforated section of the standpipe and aggressively swabbing or surging for approximately 2 hours. The chlorine level would be monitored throughout the disinfection, and a minimum chlorine concentration of 100 parts per million (ppm) would be maintained by chlorine addition, as necessary.
- Adding chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) in 1-pint increments until residual chlorine concentration is restored to 100 ppm or greater.
- Reinstalling the well pump and piping and reconnecting to the line routed to the onsite evaporation pond. Disinfectant solution and purge water would be disposed of in the onsite evaporation pond.

Proposed activities are planned to be initiated and completed towards the end of May 2020 and would be performed by a subcontractor with oversight and assistance provided by the Legacy Management Support (LMS) contractor. However, proposed field work dates are subject to change due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions

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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.3, Routine maintenance; 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

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Office of Legacy Management**



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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**
