

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Checklist for

Project/Activity: Fill in Former Meander Channel near the Naturita, CO, Processing Site

A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes to place river rock in a small (0.08 acre) former meander channel along the San Miguel River to keep domestic animals and wildlife from drinking the water. Periodically throughout the year, contaminated groundwater surfaces in this depression and may be used by domestic animals or area wildlife as a source of drinking water.

The former meander channel is located on private land close to the river, and the groundwater contamination is related to a former uranium mill that was located approximately 3,700 feet from the former meander channel. The uranium mill site, known as the Naturita Processing Site, was remediated under Title I of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978.

The project would require approximately 120 tons of 4- to 6-inch river cobbles. The cobbles would be compacted into the depression and topped with sand for revegetation. Access to the site would be primarily from State Highway 141, with an approximate one-third mile travel across a former two-track road. The remainder of the route would traverse a combination of pasture grass and bare ground. After completion of the work, newly disturbed areas would be reclaimed. This project is estimated to take 3 days.

B. Environmental Concerns

Evaluate the following elements and indicate by checking "yes" or "no" if any phase of the project/activity would result in a change or impact that is subject to regulatory permits, controls, or plans or that would require additional evaluation. If the "yes" column is checked, provide a brief explanation below and attach sheets with additional detail as necessary or appropriate.

Element	Yes	No	Element	Yes	No
Air emissions/air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exposure/impacts to public or workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need for public awareness/involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Solid waste generation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation/traffic control required	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mixed waste management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access to/use of DOE property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chemical storage on site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visual resources impacted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pesticide/herbicide use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultural/archaeological resources present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Toxic substances management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wetland/floodplain impacted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regulated quantities of petroleum used or stored on site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protected species present: federal, state, or tribe listed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Radioactive materials/soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migratory birds breeding or nesting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface (ground) disturbance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild/scenic rivers impacted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface water use/contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prime/unique farmlands present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Groundwater use/contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater quality affected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other considerations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

C. Explanation and Qualification of All “Yes” Responses

Air emissions/air quality: The use of trucks to transport and unload the river rock may result in temporary dust, depending on the weather conditions when the project is performed. If necessary, dust would be controlled through use of water.

Noise: The use of heavy equipment would result in elevated noise levels during the estimated 3-day period of operation. There are no adjacent residences, although there is a residence across the San Miguel River, and the occupants may hear noise. Any area residents that may be in hearing distance would be contacted before the project began.

Surface (ground disturbance): Vehicles would travel approximately one-third mile across private property to access the former meander channel. After completion of the project, disturbed areas would be revegetated with an appropriate seed mix.

Wetland/floodplain impacted: Work would be conducted in wetland and floodplain areas. DOE has completed Floodplain and Wetland notices and has obtained permit authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a 404 Permit # 38, “Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste.” Due to the small size (0.08 acre) of wetland disturbance, no USACE monitoring of the revegetated wetland is required. Best management practices would be followed to minimize impacts to the wetland area. After completion of the work, it is expected that without the contaminated groundwater surfacing in the former meander channel, that the quality of the wetland would improve.

D. Eligibility/Conditions

The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 1021 (10 CFR 1021); DOE has determined that these classes of actions do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment (see 10 CFR 1021.410). There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action, and the proposed action is not “connected” to other actions with potentially significant impacts. Finally, the action is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

E. Recommendation

The proposed actions are considered habitat improvements and would be considered categorically excluded from further environmental evaluation under 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B1.20 Categorical exclusions applicable to facility operation, “Small-scale activities undertaken to protect, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat.”

Meets Criteria

Does Not Meet Criteria

Unsure

F. NEPA Determination

The scope of actions proposed under Section A of this Environmental Checklist, and the information relevant to the potential for environmental impacts in Section B have been reviewed, and the following has been determined:

The proposed actions meet the criteria for categorical exclusion.

The proposed actions do not meet the criteria for categorical exclusion; therefore, I recommend that the LM NEPA Planning Board be convened based on my recommendation (see attached rationale) to complete:

an Interim Action

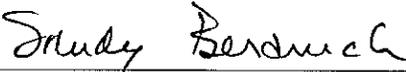
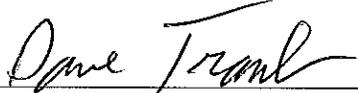
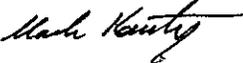
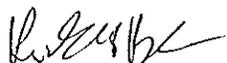
an Environmental Assessment

an Environmental Impact Statement

a Supplemental Analysis

Concurrences

Project/Activity: Fill in Former Meander Channel near the Naturita, CO, Processing Site

LM Site Name Naturita, CO, Processing Site	LM Site Program UMTRCA Title I Site	
Contractor NEPA Coordinator Sandy Beranich	Signature 	Date 3-16-2010
Contractor Site Lead Dave Traub	Signature 	Date 3-16-2010
LM Site Manager Mark Kautsky	Signature 	Date 3-16-2010
LM NEPA Compliance Officer Richard Bush	Signature 	Date 3/16/10

Distribution upon signature:

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