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

Project/Activity: Install geotechnical holes at the Lakeview, OR, Disposal Site

A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes to advance six direct-push geotechnical holes into the top of the Lakeview Disposal Cell and two geotechnical holes into the side slopes of the Lakeview Disposal Cell to determine moisture conditions within the cell.

The holes would be hydraulically pushed 10 to 55 feet (ft) into the cell using a geoprobe rig. To ensure protection of the 2-ft-thick compacted clay barrier beneath the tailings, hole locations and depths would be limited so as to not extend within 10 ft of the base of the tailings. A plan that includes verification of specified hole locations and push depths would be followed to ensure that the 10-ft protective buffer is maintained.

Hand methods may be used initially to excavate the 1-ft-thick erosion cover (rock and soil) and 0.5-ft-thick sand filter material. After the sand filter material is excavated, the remainder of the hole would be completed using direct push rods on the geoprobe rig. Once the pre-determined hole depth was reached and water levels were static within the hole, the depth to water from the cell surface would be measured. In some locations, cell water samples would be obtained and analyzed for relevant cell water geochemical information. Locations and elevations of the holes would be surveyed.

Completion of the activities described above is not expected to exceed 72 hours for each hole. After the required information is obtained, the hole would be abandoned in accordance with applicable regulations. The entire project is expected to be completed over a five-day period.

The Lakeview Disposal Site consists of 40 acres and is located approximately 7 miles northwest of Lakeview, OR. The site contains uranium mill tailings from the Lakeview Processing Site, which was remediated under Title I of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) of 1978. Work would be conducted and controlled under the supervision of a radiological control technician who would follow applicable DOE radiological control requirements. Radiologically contaminated waste generated during this investigation would be shipped to the UMTRCA Title I disposal cell in Grand Junction, CO, for appropriate disposal.

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	☒	☐	Exposure/impacts to public or workers	☒	☐
Noise	☒	☐	Need for public awareness/involvement	☐	☒
Solid waste generation	☒	☐	Transportation/traffic control required	☒	☐
Mixed waste management	☐	☒	Access to/use of DOE property	☒	☐

Element	Yes	No	Element	Yes	No
Chemical storage on site	☐	☒	Visual resources impacted	☐	☒
Pesticide/herbicide use	☐	☒	Cultural/archaeology resources present	☐	☒
Toxic substances management.	☐	☒	Wetland/floodplain impacted	☐	☒
Regulated quantities of petroleum used or stored on site	☐	☒	Protected species present: federal, state, or tribe listed	☐	☒
Radioactive materials/soils	☒	☐	Migratory birds breeding or nesting	☐	☒
Surface (ground) disturbance	☒	☐	Wild/scenic rivers impacted	☐	☒
Surface water use/contamination	☐	☒	Prime/unique farmlands present	☐	☒
Surface water quality	☐	☒	Groundwater use/contamination	☐	☒
Groundwater quality affected	☐	☒	Other considerations	☐	☒

C. Explanation and Qualification of All "Yes" Responses

Air emissions/air quality: Minimal amounts of fugitive dust generation would incidentally occur as part of this activity. Dust generation would be reduced by best management practices, as appropriate.

Noise: The use of a geoprobe rig would create noise above background levels that would be limited to the area during an approximate four-day time period.

Solid waste generation: Minimal amounts of solid waste would be generated and appropriately managed as part of this activity.

Radioactive materials/soils: Work would occur within posted radiological contamination areas with controlled access. Access and work would be controlled by a radiological work permit to ensure protection of workers and the environment from radiological hazards. All equipment and material would be properly decontaminated and surveyed prior to being released from the controlled area and the site. Radiologically contaminated waste generated during the investigation would be controlled on site and shipped to the UMTRCA Title I disposal cell in Grand Junction, CO, for appropriate disposal.

Surface (ground) disturbance: Surface disturbance related to the geotechnical investigations would occur over an area of approximately 3 ft^2 for each hole, or an estimated 72 ft^2 for all wells. Work would be completed either on the surface or sides of the disposal cell. Disturbed surface areas would be returned to their pre-work conditions upon completion of the field activities.

Exposure/impacts to public or workers: Work would be conducted and controlled under the supervision of a radiological control technician and in accordance with applicable DOE requirements.

Transportation/traffic control required: All waste shipments would comply with applicable U.S. Department of Transportation requirements.

Access to/use of DOE property: A combination of public roads and access within a right-of-way (ROW) easement across private property would be used to access the site. Permission to travel on the ROW would be obtained prior to accessing the site.

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). No extraordinary circumstances are 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 action of advancing geotechnical holes at the Lakeview, OR, Disposal Site would be considered categorically excluded from further environmental evaluation under 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B 3.1 "Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring..."

☒ 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

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LM Site Name Lakeview Disposal Site	**LM Site Programs** UMTRA Title I	
Contractor NEPA Coordinator Sandy Beranich	**Signature** Sandy Beranich	**Date** 4-20-2010
Contractor Site Lead Ann Houska	**Signature** Ann Houska	**Date** 4/20/10
LM Project Manager Jalena Dayvault	**Signature** J M Dayvault	**Date** 4-23-2010
LM NEPA Compliance Officer Richard Bush	**Signature** R Bush	**Date** 5/3/10

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