

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

Project/Activity: Abandon four monitoring wells associated with the Rocky Flats, CO, Site.

A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes to abandon four groundwater monitoring wells that were installed in the 1990s near the Rocky Flats, Colorado, Site. Three of the wells are adjacent to the Great Western Reservoir, and one is adjacent to Standley Lake; the attached map shows the well locations. Wells 11994, 11894, and 49192 are in the city of Broomfield, and well 49292 is in the city of Westminster. The wells are no longer needed for groundwater monitoring purposes and are scheduled to be abandoned before the end of 2010 and in accordance with regulations set forth by the State of Colorado. It is expected that the following activities would be completed in approximately 5 days, with a crew of up to four people to perform the work.

A rubber-tired backhoe with a breaker attachment would be used to demolish the approximately 3-foot-square concrete well pad. After removing the concrete, an area approximately 2-foot-deep would be excavated to access and remove the outer protective well casing. The well casing may need to be cut using a gas-powered chop saw. After well abandonment procedures are completed, all disturbed areas would be graded, backfill would be placed as necessary, and areas would be compacted and seeded.

Driving on existing roads and limited off-road driving would be required to access each well. All access routes are on previously disturbed areas. When traveling off public roadways, access would be coordinated with the appropriate property owner.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radioactive materials/soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migratory birds breeding or nesting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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: During excavation, temporary and small amounts of fugitive dust, which may include silica dust, may be generated in relation to breaking up the concrete well pads. If necessary, water would be used to control fugitive dust.

Noise: Levels of noise generated by hammering or sawing would be elevated for up to several minutes per location.

Solid waste generation: The concrete and casing would be removed from the site and brought to an appropriate recycling or sanitary waste facility.

Surface (ground) disturbance: Less than 0.1 acre would be disturbed while completing all activities. Upon completion of the actions, all disturbed areas would be reclaimed to their former condition.

Exposure/impacts to public or workers: The silica dust exposure from concrete demolition and removal is considered minor, and may be present to the extent of nuisance dust. Workers would have dust masks available upon request.

Protected species present; federal, state, or tribe listed: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with a DOE determination that the impacts resulting from the proposed project for wells 11994, 11894, and 49192 are not likely to adversely affect the continued existence of the listed Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, but has stated that the clearance is valid for one year (from July 2010). Well 49492 is located in the city of Westminster and is outside of possible PMJM habitat.

Migratory birds breeding or nesting: Any ground-disturbing activities that are conducted between April 1 and August 31 would require a migratory bird nesting survey prior to any well-abandonment activities.

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 abandoning four groundwater monitoring wells would be considered categorically excluded from further evaluation under 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B3.1 “Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices . . .”

- Meets Criteria Does Not Meet Criteria Unsure

F. National Environmental Policy Act (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: Abandon four monitoring wells associated with the Rocky Flats, CO, Site.

LM Site Name Rocky Flats	LM Site Programs Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	
Contractor NEPA Coordinator Sandy Beranich	Signature <i>Sandra Beranich</i> 2010.07.27 08:06:32 -06'00'	Date
Contractor Site Manager Linda Kaiser	Signature <i>Linda L. Kaiser</i> Linda L. Kaiser 2010.07.29 17:40:16 -06'00'	Date
LM Site Manager Scott Surovchak	Signature Scott R. Surovchak 2010.08.10 15:31:48 -06'00'	Date
LM NEPA Compliance Officer Tracy Ribeiro	Signature <i>Tracy S. Ribeiro</i>	Date 08/19/10

Distribution upon signature:

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