



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Conduct Downstream Alternative Sampling at Naturita, Colorado, Processing Site

Location: Naturita, Colorado, Processing Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM is proposing to sample shallow alluvial groundwater offsite of the Naturita, Colorado, Processing Site (site). The site has groundwater contaminated with uranium and an institutional control (IC) that restricts groundwater use within the IC boundary. Sampling shallow alluvial groundwater for uranium outside the current IC boundary is required to determine if the IC boundary must be expanded to ensure adequate protection of human health and the environment.

Sampling would occur with owner permission on public land owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and private land owned by The Nature Conservancy up to approximately 5 miles downstream (north) of the northern IC boundary of the site, which is approximately 2 miles northwest of Naturita, Colorado. In addition, the sampling method would be tested at one location on the site itself. Samples would be collected at multiple locations adjacent to the San Miguel River. At each sample location, a narrow hollow steel sampling rod would be hand-driven to approximately 5 feet below ground surface; samples of the alluvial groundwater that accumulates inside the sampling rod would be collected at that depth. Once samples are collected at a location, the sampling rod would be immediately pulled from the ground and the remaining hole filled with native soils and/or bentonite pellets.

The sampling rods would be installed and the sample holes filled (abandoned) in accordance with the applicable "Rules and Regulations for Water Well Construction, Pump Installation, Cistern Installation, and Monitoring and Observation Hole/Well Construction" at Volume 2 *Code of Colorado Regulations* Section 402-2. Any excess groundwater generated during sampling would be managed in accordance with the Legacy Management Support (LMS) contractor's *Management Plan for Field-Generated Investigation-Derived Waste at UMTRCA Sites* (LMS/PLN/S04352). LMS staff would conduct the sampling during 2021. A subcontractor under LMS oversight would transport LMS sampling staff and equipment by watercraft on the San Miguel River to most sample locations. LMS staff may also access some sample locations by foot after partial travel with vehicles on existing roads.

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.



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- 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: 2021.05.10 13:17:06 -06'00'
