



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Well Pump Tests Phase II in Sandia and Mortandad Canyons

Program or Field Office: Los Alamos Site Office (DOE/NNSA)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Los Alamos, NM

Proposed Action Description:

The scope of activities for the second phase of the Well Pump Tests in Sandia and Mortandad Canyons project includes: tracer studies, replacement of existing well pumps, extended pumping and treating of monitoring wells (including R-62, R-43, and SCI-2 in addition to R-28 and R-42), excavating additional pits for storing treated water near R-28, land application of treated water, installing a new Chromium Extraction (CrEX) well pad and drilling the new CrEX-1 well, modeling, groundwater sampling, and performing pilot-scale feasibility studies for a larger remediation system. This phase of the project will pump up to 20 million gallons of water. Groundwater produced during the pump tests will be transferred into above-ground mobile storage tanks. The water will be treated, stored in lined pits in the vicinity of the existing well pad areas, and land applied. This project will not be conducted within federally threatened and endangered species habitat and will not disturb the 100-year floodplain. Under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), the project will ensure that construction activities will not cut down trees and shrubs between 1 June and 31 July of any year (the peak bird-nesting season); or the Project Manager will have qualified personnel survey trees and shrubs immediately prior to removal to ensure no nestlings or eggs are destroyed.

DOE finds appropriate to this project scope application of categorical exclusion for measures to reduce migration of contaminated groundwater which includes "Small-scale temporary measures to reduce migration of contaminated groundwater, including the siting, construction, operation, and decommissioning of necessary facilities. These measures include, but are not limited to, pumping, treating, storing, and reinjecting water, by mobile units or facilities that are built and then removed at the end of the action". In addition, the proposed action is covered by the 2008 SWEIS, Appendix I, Major Material Disposal Area Remediation, Canyon Cleanups, and other Consent Order actions; and the 2008 SWEIS ROD.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B6.9 - Measures to reduce migration of contaminated groundwater

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 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.

☒ 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 under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) 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:

Berge J. Kael

Date Determined: *May 19, 2014*