



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Routine Inspections, Monitoring, and Maintenance at Durango, Colorado, Disposal/Processing Sites

Location: Durango, Colorado, Disposal and Processing Sites

Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM would conduct routine inspections, monitoring, and maintenance activities at the Durango sites, located in La Plata County, Colorado. These activities would be conducted in accordance with the *Ground Water Compliance Action Plan for the Durango, Colorado, UMTRA Project Site*, and the *Long-Term Surveillance Plan for the Durango, Colorado, Disposal Site*. The following activities would be performed throughout the year as necessary:

Inspections: The Durango sites would be visually inspected on an annual basis or more frequently as required. Visual inspection and qualitative assessment of the disposal cell depression would be conducted monthly. Nonintrusive visual inspections and other meetings onsite could be conducted. Additionally, rangeland health assessments, vegetation monitoring, and threatened and endangered species surveys would be conducted when required.

Monitoring: Proposed monitoring activities would include surveying locations and features to generate and maintain spatially accurate databases, maps, or other documents; and conducting groundwater and surface water sampling, including well development and repair activities. Non-routine monitoring activities, to be conducted in accordance with the GCAP or LTSP, may be needed to satisfy mission requirements. Additionally, the System Operation and Analysis at Remote Sites weather monitoring station would also be monitored and inspected.

Maintenance: Routine non-invasive activities would include: well redevelopment and maintenance activities; replacing damaged perimeter signs, installing or repairing gates and fences, replacing padlocks, and trash removal; regrading parking areas and road repair; conducting vegetation management activities (trimming and herbicide application), mowing and repairing existing stormwater and erosion control features; and repair of the disposal cell depression. This repair would require the use of heavy equipment (e.g., mini-excavator) to remove rock and soil from the depression area and a wheeled or tracked-loader to transport rock and soil between the depression area and the construction material staging area. Refueling during repair activities would be conducted onsite or offsite in accordance with an approved fueling plan. Fuel may be provided via a fuel service provider or by pickup truck mounted fuel tanks.

Performance of the baseline aerial survey and potential future surveys would occur on an as-needed basis. No aviation activities would commence until required Flight Safety Plans are approved by a certified DOE Aviation Manager and permission is received from the LM site manager. The need to perform follow-up aerial surveys would depend, in part, upon the results of the baseline aerial survey. Follow-up aerial surveys would require new Aviation Safety Plans approved by a certified DOE Aviation Manager and LM site manager.

Beneficial reuse projects (e.g., habitat improvements, wildlife monitoring, pollinator work) may also be conducted. To the extent possible, all vehicles onsite would stay on existing travel routes. Personnel may occasionally need to travel off-road, in previously disturbed areas, to conduct maintenance and inspection activities. If required during maintenance and monitoring activities, fueling of gas powered hand tools or all-terrain vehicles would be performed using a 5-gallon fuel container with spill containment in place and spill kit on hand. An LM contractor pesticide applicator would perform herbicide application activities onsite using established application practices and procedures.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A9 Information Gathering, Analysis, and Dissemination
- B1.3 Routine Maintenance
- B3.1 Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring
- B3.2 Aviation Activities
- B3.8 Outdoor Terrestrial Ecological and Environmental Research



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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.
- ☒ 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

Tracy A. Ribeiro Digitally signed by Tracy A. Ribeiro
Date: 2022.08.27 12:55:46 -06'00'