



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Installation of an Interim Water Treatment Unit and Associated Infrastructure at the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site

Location: Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

DOE-LM is proposing to install a package water treatment unit (WTU) to replace the existing evaporation pond at the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site. The proposed interim WTU would replace the existing evaporation pond and its treatment capacity of up to 50 gallons per minute of contaminated groundwater and allow the site to remain in compliance with the approved Groundwater Compliance Action Plan (GCAP). New pipelines would be installed and existing pipelines would be repurposed to convey groundwater to the WTU and to convey treated water to the discharge locations. Up to four 1-acre modular evaporation ponds would be installed to treat brine generated by the WTU. New fencing or enhancements to existing fencing would be required to protect the new equipment, and road improvements would be required for construction and WTU operation. Power upgrades to bring three-phase power to the site would be required and would occur along an existing powerline corridor. The WTU would operate in place of the existing evaporation pond while revisions are made to the GCAP. The WTU could operate for a longer period of time if it is determined to be an essential part of the revised GCAP strategy, or the WTU could be replaced by different treatment strategies as new information becomes available.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.3 Routine Maintenance
- B1.11 Fencing
- B1.15 Support Buildings
- B1.24 Property Transfers
- B1.26 Small Water Treatment Facilities
- B4.13 Upgrading and Rebuilding Existing Powerlines

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 1501.9(e)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.1(g)(3)), 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**

JENNIFER
O'BRIEN

Digitally signed by JENNIFER
O'BRIEN
Date: 2025.03.27 15:43:26 -06'00'