



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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

Project Title: Bluewater Offsite Well Installation Project

Location: Cibola County, New Mexico

Proposed Action or Project Description:

DOE-LM proposes the following activities to support installation of six groundwater monitoring wells located outside of the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site boundary within Cibola County.

1. Premobilization activities, including planning meetings, developing joint access agreements, road access or site preparation, non-intrusive site visits, well permitting, stormwater permitting (if required), cultural resource and environmental evaluations, development of project plans, and procurement actions.
2. Mobilization to monitoring well locations consisting of mobilizing and staging of the drill rig and associated equipment.
3. Installation and construction of the wells, which would involve borehole geophysics and installation of the system with multiple sampling ports into the San Andreas-Glorieta aquifer.
4. Lithologic core logging, sampling during drilling activities, and geophysical logging.
5. Well surface completion consisting of a minimum 2.5 feet stickup of inner casing, and an outer protective casing. Installation of a 3 × 3-foot concrete well pad with a minimum thickness of 4 inches.
6. Characterization and management of investigation-derived waste, including but not limited to, drill cuttings and core, displaced borehole water, and decontamination water.
7. Demobilization. Upon completion of work, the site shall be restored to preexisting conditions to the extent practical.

The proposed action would include the following environmental permitting requirements and consultations:

1. Well owner would complete the required well permits for the project. After installation of each monitoring well, the licensed driller would prepare a Well Record using the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer's (required format).
2. If land disturbance at any monitoring well site exceeds 1 acre, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Construction General Permit would be required.
3. Under the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106, consultation was conducted with the State Historic Preservation Office and Tribal Historic Preservation Office. No responses were received from these offices within the 30-day review period; therefore, this is considered a "No Adverse Effect" concurrence.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- A9 Information Gathering, Analysis, and Dissemination
- B1.3 Routine Maintenance
- B1.13 Pathways, Short Access Roads, and Rail Lines
- B1.24 Property Transfers
- 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 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: 2025.05.07 14:45:33
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