



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Lessee Exploration Drilling at Lease Tract C-JD-7
LM 10-25

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Uranium Leasing Program (ULP), Colorado

Proposed Action Description:

Highbury Resources Inc. (Highbury), a ULP lessee, proposes a uranium and vanadium exploration drilling project at Lease Tract C-JD-7 that would disturb a total of 1.38 acres to install 20 drill pads. Highbury plans to drill 20 mud rotary holes, each averaging 400 feet deep, with diameters of up to 6 inches. Drilling would occur on the floor of a preexisting open-pit mine, where vegetation is sparse and consists mainly of volunteer plants, such as rabbitbrush and weeds, that have established since operations ceased in 1981. No topsoil remains; the surface is exposed decomposed sedimentary rock. The site is accessible via existing two-track roads, and no new roads or major repairs are needed. The site's reclamation is covered under a separate bond. Drilling results would inform the final reclamation plan for the open pit. Highbury has active Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment stormwater permits; a Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety minerals reclamation permit; and a valid DOE lease agreement.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 – Routine maintenance

B3.1 – Site characterization and environmental monitoring

B5.3 – Modification or abandonment of wells

For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B to [10 CFR Part 1021](#), and also Section 5.4 (Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal) and Appendices B and C of [DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures](#) (June 30, 2025).

Requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures: (See full text in regulation and in Implementing Procedures)

- ☒ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025).
To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.
- ☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. DOE or an applicant may modify the proposal to avoid reasonably foreseeable adverse significant effects such that the categorical exclusion would apply.
- ☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

[Note: For proposals that fit within the categorical exclusions listed in Appendix C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, see DOE's notice of adoption for the subject Appendix C categorical exclusion for additional considerations. DOE notices of adoption for other agency categorical exclusions may be found on [DOE's Section 109 webpage](#).]

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **JENNIFER O'BRIEN**

Digitally signed by JENNIFER O'BRIEN
Date: 2025.08.13 16:20:08 -06'00'

Date Determined: **08/13/2025**