

**U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management**



Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed action title: Soil Sourcing at the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site for the AS&T Erosion Risk Flume Study Project

Program or field office: Office of Legacy Management (LM)

LM Categorical Exclusion Evaluation no.: CXE LM 18-25

Location(s) (LM site name or city, county, state): Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site

Proposed Action Description

LM is proposing to fund and complete an erosion risk flume study at the Colorado State University (CSU) Hydraulics Laboratory (HL) in Fort Collins, Colorado. To execute this study, LM proposes to collect and transport soil from various LM-managed and future LM-managed (transition) sites to CSU. Flume studies are being conducted to inform current uncertainties related to long-term erosion resistance of alternative disposal cell covers, assist in determining proposed enhancements to existing disposal cell covers, and support the development of methods to quantify erosional risk at disposal cells. The results would inform long-term management strategies at LM disposal sites.

Soil to aid in this study would be sourced from the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site located approximately nine miles northwest of Grants in Cibola County. Actions would include the creation of an unimproved road approximately 0.5 miles in length for a subcontractor to travel from the Bluewater entrance gate to a laydown area, which would involve the procurement and placement of up to a total of 30 cubic yards of crushed gravel and/or road base on the unimproved road surface to stabilize access to an onsite borrow area. Approximately 39 cubic yards of topsoil and 27 cubic yards of subsoil would be excavated from the borrow area, loaded into transport trucks, prepared for highway transport, and transported to CSU HL.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied

B1.30 – Transfer actions

B3.1 – Site characterization and environmental monitoring

For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 1021.102 (10 CFR 1021.102) and Appendix B to [10 CFR 1021](#), and also Section 5.4 (*Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal*) and Appendixes B and C to DOE's [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) 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 1021 or Appendix B and C to DOE's NEPA implementing procedures.
To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR 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 1021 and DOE's NEPA 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 to 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: Adopting Categorical Exclusions](#) 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.

**JENNIFER
O'BRIEN**

Digitally signed by JENNIFER
O'BRIEN
Date: 2025.11.12 17:02:17
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NEPA Compliance Officer
Select "Lock document after signing" upon signature.

Date determined