

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management



Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed action title: Chemical Well Redevelopment at the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site

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

LM Categorical Exclusion Evaluation no.: LM 23-25

Location(s) (LM site name or city, county, state): Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site

Proposed Action Description
<p>LM is proposing to complete chemical well redevelopment (CWR) actions at the Rifle Disposal Site (Site) in augmentation to the physical well development procedures. The well redevelopment work is needed to maintain the extraction well system and ensure porewater levels within the disposal cell do not reach levels that could compromise the containment of uranium related material in the disposal cell. The Site contains a porewater extraction system consisting of ten, four-inch polyvinyl chloride extraction wells screened within the disposal cell to extract porewater (also known as leachate) which is pumped to the evaporation pond or storage tanks (Modu Tanks). The extraction wells were installed summer of 2024, and the system began pumping in the winter of 2024. Since the initial pumping, well fouling has become evident due to biological and geochemical in-situ conditions. An analytical assessment was conducted to assess the condition of all ten extraction wells. Water Systems Engineering Inc was hired by LM to analyze samples from each well and complete a well profile analysis to give recommendations on well rehabilitation to include the use of chemicals. The results of the analysis was used to develop a plan and work instructions to complete rehabilitation of the extraction wells. CWR activities would help DOE fulfill the general license site maintenance requirements in Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations Section 40.27 (10 CFR 40.27).</p> <p>The CWR system including an elementary neutralization unit (ENU) would be constructed to prepare for CWR. Utilizing an ENU, provides a Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) exemption that excludes hazardous waste generated from the CWR process from the monthly reporting totals for</p>
Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied
B1.3 – Routine maintenance
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.

NICOLE
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NICOLE OLIN
Date: 2025.11.17
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NEPA Compliance Officer
Select “Lock document after signing” upon signature.

Date determined