



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Program or Field Office: Office of Legacy Management

Project Title and I.D. No.: Stanford Linear Accelerator Center-Science Focus Area (SLAC-SFA) Geoprobe Sampling Near the Naturita, Colorado, Title I Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Processing Site, LM 22-14

Location: Naturita, Colorado

Proposed Action or Project Description:

DOE is proposing to support the SLAC-SFA team in a study to determine factors affecting subsurface plume persistence. The purpose of the proposed project is to find reduced zones in the floodplain where uranium is concentrated. Determining if reduced zones exist at the site and what the uranium concentration levels are would provide more information about plume persistence over time in the floodplains associated with some of the uranium mill tailings sites. Study efforts at the Naturita site would be jointly conducted by SLAC-SFA staff and Legacy Management Support (LMS) contractor personnel. The proposed action is expected to happen October 20–24, 2014, using a crew of approximately 8–10 people. The study involves using a Geoprobe to direct push eight boreholes, each approximately 3.5 inches in diameter and each to a depth of bedrock, if possible. Bedrock is estimated to be about 20 feet below ground surface. The Geoprobe sampler would be used to collect the soil samples. Hand digging and auguring is also proposed in the same general locations. Water samples might also be collected as necessary from the Geoprobe test holes or from nearby existing well locations. The specific amounts of soil and water collected are subject to the final study plan. About 500 milliliters of sediment could be collected from each sample. Upon completion of sampling, all boreholes would be filled with the remaining cored material. Nitrogen would be applied to the soil samples to prevent them from becoming oxygenated. Proposed Geoprobe coring locations are approximate and may be subject to changes in the field. LMS contractor staff would provide the following support: coordination of site access; oversight of Geoprobe coring operations; completion of radiologic surveys of samples; transportation of samples from Naturita to Grand Junction, Colorado; general oversight of radiological activities; disposal of nonhazardous wastes and sediment-contaminated materials; disposal of small quantities of hazardous waste; and storage of small quantities of investigation-related chemicals. This project would occur in a floodplain and near a wetland, but the actions would not adversely affect either feature and would not cause permanent changes to the environment.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.1 Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 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 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), 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 under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) 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:

Date Determined: