



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.: Maintenance and Related Activities at the Burris Park, California, Site, LM 03-15

Location: Burris Park, California

Proposed Action or Project Description: The Burris Park, California, Site is located in Kings County about 30 miles south of Fresno. Kings County owns the 57-acre park complex. The University of California, Berkeley, under contract to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), established the Burris Park research site in 1956 to study the removal of radioactive strontium-90 (Sr-90) from soil. The site was decommissioned in 1963 by placing a concrete cap over the Sr-90 test plots and installing a fence, signage, and a permanent plaque. Over the years the site has been used as a display area for old farm equipment belonging to an adjacent museum. Because of the AEC contamination under the concrete cap, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was authorized to take responsibility for maintaining the site. In November 2014, the Office of Legacy Management (LM) assumed long-term care responsibilities for the site under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). No further remediation is required under FUSRAP, but post-closure care is required to ensure the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. The site consists of a 50-foot by 50-foot fenced area with a 42-foot by 42-foot concrete pad covering the former research plots. Two dead trees and two live trees are inside the fenced area, and the pad is littered with tree limbs and a thick layer of leaf debris. LM plans to maintain the physical condition of the site and conduct radiological surveys to confirm that the site poses no unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. LM is proposing to conduct a site visit and to coordinate initial maintenance actions for the site. Those actions would include scanning and removing the farm equipment; removing and sizing dead trees, limbs, and leaf mulch from within the fenced area; clearing debris from the concrete pad; inspecting the pad for integrity and degradation; performing fence and gate repair; removing live trees from within the fenced area and cutting stumps to grade; chipping or sizing live tree materials to compost or mulch; and replacing signs on each side of the fenced area. Any low-level radioactive material found outside of the containment structure, such as dead tree limbs, tree trunks, or other debris, would be appropriately sized, collected in soft-sided boxes, secured, and disposed of at an approved low-level radioactive waste facility. Minor environmental impacts are expected within the scope of the applicable categorical exclusions.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied: B1.3 Routine maintenance; B1.11 Fencing; B1.24 Property transfers; B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring; B6.1 Cleanup actions

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: