



**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.:** Field studies to include installing groundwater monitoring wells, obtaining groundwater and sediment samples, land surveys, measuring surface water discharge, and conducting miscellaneous field activities near the former Riverton, Wyoming, Processing Site (LM 17-15).

**Location:** Near Riverton, Wyoming

**Proposed Action or Project Description:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to use a Geoprobe rig to obtain groundwater samples from 18 temporary boreholes. The majority of the boreholes would be located downgradient from the former Riverton, Wyoming, processing site; all locations would be sampled at 12 feet below ground surface. The groundwater samples would be collected through the Geoprobe rods and, after the samples were obtained, the boreholes would be abandoned by filling the holes with bentonite pellets or chips.

A sonic drilling rig would be used to install nine groundwater monitor wells. The wells would be installed down to bedrock, which is an estimated 17 feet below ground surface. Soil samples would be obtained at 1-foot intervals from ground surface to bedrock. At each location, a three-port 1.1-inch continuous multichannel tubing well would be installed. Each well would be completed with a 6-inch protective casing to approximately 3 feet above ground surface and a poured concrete pad to stabilize the protective casing. The soil samples would be analyzed for vertical differentiation of contaminants of concern and geochemical parameters.

All soils and groundwater samples would be analyzed for contaminants of concern at a DOE-approved laboratory.

Other proposed field studies would include taking surface water discharge measurements at five locations, installing ten temporary hand-driven well-points, and installing a stilling well to measure river elevation changes.

**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:**