



**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.: Install New Groundwater Monitoring Wells at the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site (LM 26-16)

Location: Tuba City, Arizona

Proposed Action or Project Description:

LM is proposing to drill 24 new groundwater sampling wells in the immediate vicinity of the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site. The drilling method and equipment need to penetrate loose dune sand and consolidated sand and gravel up to 20 feet thick and into the underlying fine-grained Navajo Sandstone, which is generally poorly consolidated, to the desired depth. The diameter of the borehole would be sufficient to allow uniform placement of an artificial sand pack and annular sealants within a 2-inch annulus surrounding the 4-inch well screen and casing (nominal 8-inch diameter borehole).

An archaeological survey was conducted for nine of the proposed well locations because they were outside of the areas that had previously been surveyed for archaeological resources. No new archaeological resources were identified during the survey. LM provided the conclusion of "No Historic Properties Affected," supported by an archaeological report of the pedestrian survey and its results, to the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department (HPD) for review and comment on November 7, 2016. The Navajo Nation HPD concurred with the LM conclusion on December 22, 2016. The Navajo Nation HPD forwarded the findings and supporting archaeological report to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for BIA review and comment. The BIA concurred with the LM and Navajo Nation HPD findings on December 28, 2016.

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: