



**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.: Routine site and administrative actions, removal and installation of fence lines, and installation of a water pipeline and stock water tank at the Bear Creek, WY, Disposal Site. LM No. 15 – 11.

Location: Bear Creek, Wyoming, Disposal Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

The Bear Creek Disposal Site is a remediated former uranium processing mill site located in Converse County, Wyoming. Routine actions that are expected to occur on the site include sampling groundwater monitoring wells and associated activities (e.g., water level measurements) and conducting maintenance activities related to site infrastructure or site features. These types of actions were evaluated for potential impacts to the environment; any impacts that might be associated with these activities would be considered negligible. General administrative actions were evaluated in a separate document (LM No. 09 – 11).

In addition, DOE is in the process of approving a grazing agreement with an adjacent rancher for use of a portion of the disposal site. The rancher wishes to control access to the Bear Creek Disposal Site by domestic animals that seasonally graze on an adjacent ranch. The rancher also wishes to more efficiently utilize the disposal site area available for his use. He has requested permission to remove approximately two miles of interior woven wire range fence (that is no longer required) and to reuse approximately one mile of the fence to secure an unfenced perimeter. The rancher also proposes to bury a water pipeline (approximately 2,100 feet long) that would convey water from a water well located on his adjacent property to a stock water tank. The pipeline and water tank would be located in areas that currently contain a portion of the fence that would be removed. The stock water tank would be situated on an approximate 10-foot-square gravel pad.

A cultural resource survey was conducted on the areas that could potentially be disturbed, and no cultural resources were found present. No protected resources would be impacted by any of the proposed actions.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3: Routine maintenance activities: This criterion would cover various maintenance actions necessary to maintain system components, would apply to potential vegetation or erosion control actions, and would apply to fence installation/removal and the water pipeline and associated stock tank installation.

B3.1: On-site and off-site characterization and environmental monitoring: Routine groundwater monitoring would occur annually on the disposal site.

*For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.

This action would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 of 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning 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:
Tracy A. Rebeno

Date Determined:
08/30/2011

Comments: