U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management
National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Checklist

Project/Activity: Reclamation Projects on Slick Rock Lease Tract C-SR-11, Uranium Leasing Program

A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes various reclamation activities related to abandoned mines and mine features that constitute a public safety concern. Independent contractors associated with the lessee (Cotter Corporation) and under supervision of uranium leasing program (ULP) personnel would complete the work, and all projects would be completed within approximately 3 weeks. C-SR-11 is located in southwestern San Miguel County, Colorado. The total estimated surface disturbance would cover 3 acres.

Numerous pits and trenches located on the Beth Claim remain open and are a public safety hazard. Suitable fill material (mine-waste rock) is present around some of the pit perimeters. To reclaim these disturbed areas, the side walls of the trenches would be reduced, and mine-waste materials would be used to fill the depressions. Nearby soil materials (from a source identified by ULP personnel) also would be used as fill in the depressions. After final grading is completed, the reclaimed area would appear similar to the surrounding undulating topography. An approved seed mixture would be used to restore a vegetative cover.

Mine-waste rock from the Tomboy Mine site has washed onto the roadway as a result of a heavy storm event. This material would be cleaned off the road, and the road would be re-graded to allow access.

A subsidence at the previously backfilled Mercantile No. 3 Mine portal needs to be permanently closed. The subsidence must be dug out enough to allow large rocks to be placed in the opening and then be pushed back to the point of refusal. The opening would be backfilled with additional mine-waste rock and covered with common borrow surface materials from a source identified by ULP personnel and reseeded with an approved seed mixture.

Due to the highly disturbed nature of the area, no cultural resources are present nor is habitat for protected species present. All activities would be conducted after the migratory bird and nesting season were over in 2010.

B. Environmental Concerns

Evaluate the following elements and indicate by checking "yes" or "no" if any phase of the project/activity would result in a change or impact that is subject to regulatory permits, controls, or plans or that would require additional evaluation. If the "yes" column is checked, provide a brief explanation below and attach sheets with additional detail as necessary or appropriate.

Element	Yes	No	Element	Yes	No
Air emissions/air quality	☐	☒	Exposure/impacts to public or workers	☐	☒
Noise	☐	☒	Need for public awareness/involvement	☐	☒
Solid waste generation	☐	☒	Transportation/traffic control required	☐	☒
Mixed waste management	☐	☒	Access to/use of DOE property	☐	☒
Chemical storage on site	☐	☒	Visual resources impacted	☐	☒
Pesticide/herbicide use	☐	☒	Cultural/archaeological resources present	☐	☒
Toxic substances management	☐	☒	Wetland/floodplain impacted	☐	☒
Regulated quantities of petroleum used or stored on site	☐	☒	Protected species present: federal, state, or tribe listed	☐	☒
Radioactive materials/soils	☐	☒	Migratory birds breeding or nesting	☐	☒

Element	Yes	No	Element	Yes	No
Surface (ground) disturbance	☒	☐	Wild/scenic rivers impacted	☐	☒
Surface water use/contamination	☐	☒	Prime/unique farmlands present	☐	☒
Surface water quality	☐	☒	Groundwater use/contamination	☐	☒
Groundwater quality affected	☐	☒	Other considerations	☐	☒

C. Explanation and Qualification of All "Yes" Responses

Surface (ground) disturbance: Reclamation actions would result in minor surface disturbance. The long-term benefit would be improved habitat and removal of a safety hazard.

D. Eligibility/Conditions

The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 1021 (10 CFR 1021). DOE has determined that these classes of actions do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment (see 10 CFR 1021.410). There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action, and the proposed action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts. Finally, the action is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

E. Recommendation

The proposed reclamation of the subsided mine portal is an allowable activity under Criterion B1.28 of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021, "Minor activities that are required to place a facility in an environmentally safe condition where there is no proposed use for the facility." The reclamation of the areas are allowable activities under Criterion B1.3, Routine Maintenance.

☒ Meets Criteria ☐ Does Not Meet Criteria ☐ Unsure

F. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination

The scope of actions proposed under Section A of this Environmental Checklist, and the information relevant to the potential for environmental impacts in Section B have been reviewed, and the following has been determined:

☑ The proposed actions meet the criteria for categorical exclusion.

☐ The proposed actions do not meet the criteria for categorical exclusion; therefore, I recommend that the LM NEPA Planning Board be convened based on my recommendation (see attached rationale) to complete:

☐ an Interim Action. ☐ an Environmental Assessment.

☐ an Environmental Impact Statement. ☐ a Supplemental Analysis.

Concurrences

Project/Activity: Reclamation Projects on Slick Rock Lease Tract C-SR-11, Uranium Leasing Program

LM Site Name Slick Rock Lease Tract C-SR-11	**LM Site Program** Uranium Leasing Program	
Contractor NEPA Coordinator Sandy Beranich	**Signature** Sandra Beranich 2010.07.27 18:10:46 -06'00'	**Date**
Contractor Program Lead Ed Cotter	**Signature** 2010.07.28 07:08:41 -06'00'	**Date**
LM Program Manager Laura Kilpatrick	**Signature** Laura E. Kilpatrick Laura E. Kilpatrick DOE LM - Rocky Flats 2010.07.28 08:41:41 -06'00'	**Date**
LM NEPA Compliance Officer Tracy Ribeiro	**Signature** Tracy A. Ribeiro	**Date** 7/30/10

Distribution upon signature:

T. Ribeiro, LM NEPA Compliance Officer
L. Kilpatrick, LM Program Manager
S. Beranich, S.M. Stoller Corporation (Stoller) NEPA Coordinator
E. Cotter, Stoller Uranium Leasing Program Task Manager
S. Osborn, Stoller Compliance Manager
rc-grand.junction