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

Project/Activity: Reclamation Projects on Wedding Bell Mountain Lease Tract C-WM-17, Uranium Leasing Program

A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes several minor reclamation activities related to abandoned mines and mine features that pose a public safety concern. In 2007, LM inherited abandoned mines as a result of re-aligning lease tract boundaries. Independent contractors associated with the lessee (Golden Eagle Uranium) and under the supervision of uranium leasing program personnel would complete the work, and all projects would be completed within approximately 2 days. The Wedding Bell Mountain Lease Tract C-WM-17 is located in southwestern Montrose County, Colorado. The total estimated surface disturbance would cover 1 acre.

A subsidence is located on the Radium Hill No. 10 Mine. On-site waste-rock materials would be pushed into the subsidence using heavy equipment. After final grading was completed, surface areas would be seeded with an appropriate seed mixture. An open vent, located on the nearby Broken Mug Claim that is associated with the mine, also needs to be closed. The vent would be permanently closed with a polyurethane foam plug and then covered with surface soil materials and reseeded with an approved seed mixture.

There are no cultural resources present in these highly disturbed areas nor is there habitat present for protected species. The proposed work would be conducted in 2010 and after migratory bird breeding and nesting periods were over.

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	☐	☒
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 increase 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 area and open vent are allowable actions 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" and under B1.3, Routine maintenance.

☒ Meets Criteria ☐ Does Not Meet Criteria ☐ Unsure

F. 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

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LM Site Name Wedding Bell Mountain Lease Tract C-WM-17	**LM Site Program** Uranium Leasing Program	
Contractor NEPA Coordinator Sandy Beranich	**Signature** Sandra Beranich 2010.07.27 17:37:59 -06'00'	**Date**
Contractor Program Lead Ed Cotter	**Signature** 2010.07.28 07:12:31 -06'00'	**Date**
LM Program Manager Laura Kilpatrick	**Signature** Laura E. Kilpatrick Laura E. Kilpatrick DOE LM - Rocky Flats 2010.07.28 09:35:20 -06'00'	**Date**
LM NEPA Compliance Officer Tracy Ribeiro	**Signature** Tracy A. Ribeiro	**Date** 7/30/10

Distribution upon signature:

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