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

Project/Activity: Install monitoring wells at the Slick Rock West, Colorado, Processing Site

A. Brief Project/Activity Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) proposes to abandon groundwater monitoring well 0318 and install three new groundwater monitoring wells at the Slick Rock West, Colorado, Processing Site. The attached map shows the well locations.

Existing well 0318 would be replaced with well 0318A. The well would be abandoned because either the screen or casing has broken. Well 0318 has 3 feet (ft) of sand inside the casing and about 1 ft of water above the sand, and would be abandoned according to State of Colorado well abandonment regulations (2 CCR 402-2 Rule 16). Wells 0339 and 0340 would be new well locations. It is expected that the following activities would be completed in August 2010, in approximately 2 days, with a crew of two people to perform the work.

The holes would be hydraulically pushed to depths less than 20 ft using a Geoprobe rig. All new wells would be completed in the shallow alluvial aquifer using 1-inch PVC casing and screen inside a nominal 2-inch-diameter borehole.

The concrete pad at well 0318 would be broken up and removed from the site. The area of former well 0318 would be raked to match the surrounding area. A 3-ft^2 concrete well pad would be placed at each new well. Surface disturbance would occur over an approximate 5 ft^2 area surrounding each well. Once the wells are installed, the drill cuttings would be spread over adjacent areas.

Access to the well sites would be on existing roads, and no new disturbance would occur.

The wells would be located in the 100-year floodplain of the Dolores River. However, none of the proposed wells would impact the floodplain, and the wells would not be located in a riparian area. No protected resources would be affected by the proposed actions.

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		x	Exposure/impacts to public or workers		x
Noise		x	Need for public awareness/involvement		x
Solid waste generation		x	Transportation/traffic control required		x
Mixed waste management		x	Access to/use of DOE property		x
Chemical storage on site		x	Visual resources impacted		x
Pesticide/herbicide use		x	Cultural/archaeology resources present		x
Toxic substances management		x	Wetland/floodplain impacted		x
Regulated quantities of petroleum used or stored on site		x	Protected species present: federal, state, or tribe listed		x

Element	Yes	No	Element	Yes	No
Radioactive materials/soils		x	Migratory birds breeding or nesting		x
Surface (ground) disturbance	x		Wild/scenic rivers impacted		x
Surface water use/contamination		x	Prime/unique farmlands present		x
Surface water quality		x	Groundwater use/contamination	x	
Groundwater quality affected		x	Other considerations		x

C. Explanation and Qualification of All "Yes" Responses

Surface (ground) disturbance: Surface disturbance related to the new wells would occur over a work area of approximately 25 ft^2 at each well site. The area where the new wells would be located is within the footprint of the former tailings pile, where the surface and subsurface soil was extensively remediated.

Groundwater use/contamination: Groundwater at the Slick Rock West Site is monitored annually. The annual monitoring would result in the withdrawal of several liters of groundwater at each new well. Purge water and excess sample water from the wells would be discharged to the ground surface.

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). No extraordinary circumstances are 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 action of installing wells at the Slick Rock West Processing Site would be considered categorically excluded from further environmental evaluation under 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B 3.1 "Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring,..."

☒ 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 Slick Rock West, Colorado, Processing Site	**LM Site Programs** UMTRCA Title I	
Contractor NEPA Coordinator Lynn Bowdidge	**Signature** Sharee L Bowdidge 2010.08.04 08:58:14 -06'00'	**Date**
Contractor Site Lead David Traub	**Signature** David Traub	**Date** 8-4-10
LM Project Manager Richard Bush	**Signature** Richard Bush	**Date** 8/10/10
LM Acting NEPA Compliance Officer Richard Bush	**Signature** Richard Bush	**Date** 8/10/10

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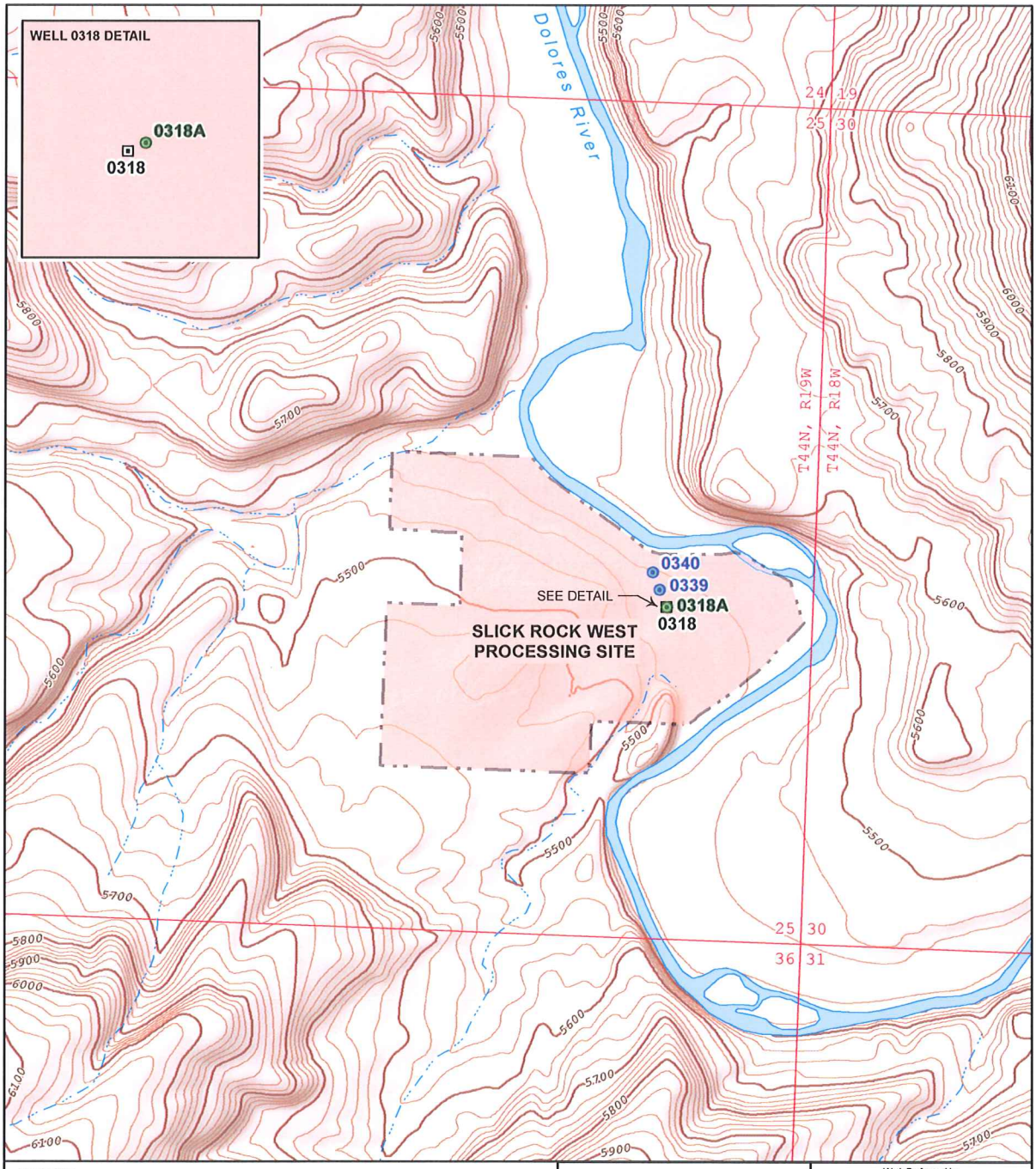
rc-grand junction



LEGEND

- Proposed Well
- Proposed Replacement Well
- Existing Well
- Section
- Processing Site
- 100-ft Contour
- 20-ft Contour
- Stream
- River

N

SCALE IN FEET
500 0 500

T44W, R18W and T44W, R19W, New Mexico Principal Meridian

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

Work Performed by
S.M. Stoller Corporation
Under DOE Contract
No. DE-AM01-07LM00060

Proposed Well Locations
Slick Rock West, CO, Processing Site

DATE PREPARED: August 4, 2010

FILENAME: S0688000

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