



# U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Environmental Remediation of Drill Site 26

Program or Field Office: Petroleum Reserves (FE-47), Office of Fossil Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Ford City/Kern County/California

Proposed Action Description:

The Federal Government owns eight parcels of vacant land totaling 16.7 acres distributed within Ford City, an unincorporated part of western Kern County, California, north of the City of Taft. These plots, known as the Ford City Drill Sites, had been set aside in the 1920s to provide work space to access hydrocarbon resources underlying Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 2, but were never used. In July 2010, the Department of Energy designated the eight Ford City Drill Sites excess real property and transferred them to the General Services Administration (GSA) for disposal under the Property Act, Title 40 U.S.C. §101. One of the eight parcels, Drill Site 26, located north of Ash Street, west of Monroe Street, south of Birch Street, and east of Jackson Street in Ford City, had elevated concentrations of lead in a number of "hot spots" that had to be remediated before the site could be accepted by GSA. The lead is believed to have been deposited by the unauthorized burning of household trash over a number of decades by nearby residents. Remediation of the site will be done pursuant to a Removal Action Work Plan that was approved by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control on December 6, 2011. Under the plan, an estimated 400 cubic yards of lead impacted soil will be removed from nine "hot spots" within Drill Site 26 that have been identified as containing lead at concentrations that exceed the California Human Health Screening Level (CHHSL) for lead in soil of 80 mg/kg. The contaminated soil will be transported to a licensed landfill for disposal. Confirmation samples will be collected from each of the nine areas to ensure that the residual soil is at or below the CHHSL for lead. The excavated areas will then be backfilled with imported clean fill that will be tested for contaminants to ensure that all imported material is below local background screening levels for residential properties. The goal of the project is to avoid any future requirement for a land use restriction for Drill Site 26. The estimated cost of the remediation project is \$290,000.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B6.1 - Cleanup actions

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:

*Mark Matarrese*

Date Determined:

*12/9/11*