Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions

Oatman Amalgamated AML Backfill
DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2011-0012-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Kingman Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Oatman Amalgamated AML Backfill

Locations of Proposed Action: An abandoned mine shaft, located on public land in NW ¼ SW ¼ Section 3, T. 19 N., R. 20 W., G. & S. R. M., near Oatman, Mohave County, Arizona. See attached map.

Description of Proposed Action: BLM would backfill abandoned mine shafts on public land in the vicinity of Oatman, Arizona. The abandoned mine shaft and adit has been surveyed by BLM wildlife biologists, who recommended that they be permanently closed because of its lack of value as bat habitat. Backfilling this dangerous abandoned mine working will prevent accidental falls and contamination of soil and groundwater by dumping of hazardous materials. All mining claimants with claims in the area have been notified of this work. No objections to the closures were received by BLM, Kingman Field Office. An owl was seen in the mine shaft. It will be expelled with smoke bombs or flares before backfilling.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Final EIS
Date Approved: March, 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): N/A

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

"Hazardous Materials Management
The objective is to reduce hazards to the public and natural resources on public lands from toxic materials."

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, Appendix 4, J (8) – Installation of minor devices to protect human life, (e.g., grates across mines), and, Appendix 4, J (10) -- Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the following when reviewing the proposed project:

- Backfilling this abandoned mine shaft will have a positive effect on public health & safety. Accidental injury or death due to falls into the openings will be eliminated. Contamination of soil and groundwater by the dumping of hazardous materials into abandoned mine shafts will be prevented.

- Mining claimants have been notified of the proposed backfills, and no objections were heard from them.

- Disturbance will be limited to the minimum necessary to backfill the shaft. Material for backfilling will come from adjacent waste rock dumps only.

- Cultural clearances have been completed for the sites. No historic features would be impacted by the proposed backfilling. Standard stipulations apply.

- No T&E habitat or species are present in this area, and there is no significant bat habitat in the shafts to be backfilled, according to surveys completed by BLM wildlife biologists, who recommended that this site could be backfilled immediately.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: __/s/__ Ruben A. Sanchez ____ Date: _____
(Signature)
Name: Ruben A. Sanchez
Title: Field Manager, Kingman Field Office

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact [*Paul Misiaxzek, Geologist/Abandoned mine Land Specialist, Kingman Field Office, 2755 Mission Blvd., Kingman, Arizona 86401, (928) 718-3700*].

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX. See Attachment 2.

Approval and Decision

Attachment 2

Compliance and assignment of responsibility: Paul Misiaszek, Abandoned Mine Land Program
Monitoring and assignment of responsibility: Paul Misiaszek, Abandoned Mine Land Program

Review: *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

Prepared by: _/s/_ Paul L. Misiaszek_____ **Date:**

Paul Misiaszek
Geologist

Reviewed by: _/s/__Dave Brock_____ **Date:** 8/1/2011

Dave Brock
NEPA Coordinator

Reviewed by: ___ **Date:**

Ruben A. Sanchez
Field Manager

Project Description: BLM would backfill a dangerous, abandoned mine shaft located on public land in NW ¼ SW ¼ Section 3, T. 19 N., R. 20 W., near Oatman, Arizona. BLM would use a backhoe or bulldozer to push material from adjacent waste rock dumps into the shaft. Backfilling this abandoned mine shaft would significantly improve public safety, as the physical safety hazard would be permanently eliminated. It would prevent the dumping of hazardous materials into the hole, protecting soil and groundwater from contamination. Cultural and biological surveys have been completed. A BLM survey show that this abandoned mine shaft provides no habitat for bats. An owl was seen in the shaft. It will be expelled with smoke bombs or flares before backfilling.

Decision: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed.

Approved By: ___ _____ **Date:** _____

Ruben A. Sanchez
Field Manager