

Floodplain Statement of Findings

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy, Grand Junction Site

ACTION: Additional Interim Actions Within Floodplain at the Moab Project Site

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is in the process of evaluating alternatives for final remediation at the Moab Project Site. This process includes release of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement in November 2004. In 2003, DOE initiated interim actions at the site, including installation of an interim ground water treatment system to reduce contaminants reaching the Colorado River. Additional interim actions are planned for 2005, some of which will occur in the 100-year floodplains of the Colorado River and Moab Wash (base floodplain). A Floodplain and Wetlands Assessment was prepared for the proposed additional interim actions. DOE hereby provides this Statement of Findings as required by 10 CFR Part 1022 for the effects of additional interim actions on the base floodplain at the Moab Project Site.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Proposed actions within the base floodplain include contaminated soil removal, native habitat restoration, phytoremediation studies, the addition of new injection and extraction wells, and rehabilitation of an existing pump station. The attached map shows the location of the proposed activities, the base floodplain, and wetlands at the Moab Project Site.

REASON FOR LOCATION WITHIN FLOODPLAIN: Contaminated soils exist within the floodplain. In order to decrease the size of the site's contaminated area and provide a larger buffer zone for adjacent landowners, contaminated soils and vegetation must be removed. Remediated areas will be restored with native plant communities. To maximize success of native revegetation efforts, invasive vegetation (tamarisk, Russian olive, and Russian knapweed) will be controlled in portions of the floodplain adjacent to remediated areas then revegetated. Additional injection and extraction wells are required to enhance the existing ground water remediation system, and these wells must be placed within the floodplain below the tailings pile. In an effort to direct successful revegetation in high ammonia areas, phytoremediation studies will be conducted involving tamarisk cutting, tamarisk removal, and native habitat restoration. The high ammonia areas occur within the floodplain. The pump station requiring rehabilitation is located in the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: Only activities for which no alternative exists are planned within the floodplain. A no action alternative was also considered.

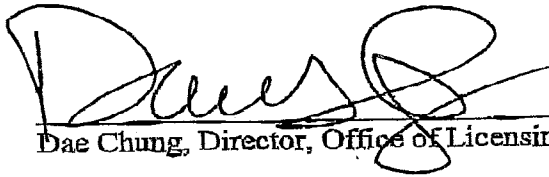
THE PROPOSED ACTIONS CONFORM TO APPLICABLE FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS. All activities will be coordinated with appropriate federal and state agencies.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL HARM TO OR WITHIN FLOODPLAIN: Location of all activities for which alternatives exist (e.g., staging area, soil stockpiles, portions of haul route) outside floodplain, implementation of storm water pollution

prevention plan, best management practices for soil remediation, control of invasive plant species, best practices for native plant revegetation, no use of herbicide for tamarisk control within 100 ft. of channel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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