



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 13, 2021

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Dominic Orlando
Mail Stop T8-F5
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management Aerial Survey at the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site (Docket No. WM-0058)

Dear Mr. Orlando:

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (LM) is planning to conduct an aerial survey at the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site in mid-January 2022.

LM will use a small, unmanned aircraft system (sUAS), or “drone,” to collect aerial imagery and light detection and ranging (lidar) elevation data. The survey data will be used to monitor topographical information at the site with a high level of accuracy. Please see the map of the extent of the aerial survey enclosed with this letter for reference.

The UAS will launch from, and land on, the disposal site. LM will perform the flight during daylight hours, preferably morning to midday, to provide optimal timing for data collection. The intent of this survey is to collect imagery of the disposal site only, and not include photos of individuals or adjacent properties.

LM has obtained all the approvals needed to move forward, and this notification is for informational purposes only.

For any questions regarding the sUAS aerial survey, please contact the LM Aviation Program Manager Deborah Steckley at (970) 648-3799 or Deborah.Steckley@lm.doe.gov.

For general questions about the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site, please contact the LM Site Manager Mark Kautsky at (970) 248-6018 or Mark.Kautsky@lm.doe.gov.

For additional information on the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site, please visit <https://www.energy.gov/lm/office-legacy-management>

Sincerely,

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Date: 2021.12.13 17:05:27
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Mark Kautsky
UMTRCA Program Manager

Enclosures

Small Drone Use at the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site for Aerial Survey



What is an aerial survey?"

An aerial survey is the collection of information with aircraft. While ground-based surveyors carry equipment to take photos, measure elevations, or collect other information, aerial surveying involves using equipment on aircraft to survey. In this case DOE will be using a drone to survey.

What is a small drone?

A small drone, in this case, about the size of an office chair, is an aircraft flown by a person on the ground using a hand-held control box. This person is a drone pilot.

Why will the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) fly a small drone?

The drone has equipment that captures high-quality images. These images of the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site will help DOE ensure that the site stays in good condition.

Who will make sure it is safely flown?

The drone pilot and our safety expert. The pilot must follow federal rules to protect people and property on the ground.

Where will it be flown?

We will only fly over the DOE Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site and surrounding area that is outlined on the map, on the back of this sheet.

When will it be flown?

We plan to fly the drone in early January 2022.

How will your privacy be respected?

DOE has a very strict privacy rule that the drone pilot must follow. The pilot will collect imagery of the disposal site only, and not include photos of individuals or adjacent properties.

Who can you contact for more information?

Please contact the LM Aviation Manager Deborah Steckley @ (720) 648-3799, or Deborah.Steckley@lm.doe.gov and ask about the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site aerial survey.

Aerial Survey Extent

