

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE
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DOE NEWS:

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DOE RELEASES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR RIFLE, COLORADO MILL TAILINGS SITES

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning the cleanup of uranium mill tailings and other materials from the Old and New Rifle uranium mill tailings sites in Rifle, Colorado. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Notice of Availability of the draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register May 29, 1987.

The draft EIS is being made available for public review and comment, after which a final EIS will be published and an official Record of Decision will be issued stating the chosen remedial action alternative.

The draft EIS for the Rifle mill tailings examines four remedial action alternatives:

1. No action
2. Stabilization of both old and new piles at the New Rifle site
3. Disposal at the Estes Gulch site (Preferred Alternative)
4. Disposal at the Lucas Mesa site.

The EPA standards for cleanup of inactive uranium mill tailings sites cannot be met under the "no action" option. Impacts associated with Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 were evaluated in terms of radiation, air quality, soils, mineral resources, surface water and ground-water quality, ecology, land use, noise, social and economic impacts, and transportation networks. Both short-term (during remedial action construction) and long-term (stabilization for hundreds of years) impacts were assessed.

Estimated costs, in 1986 dollars, for remedial action alternatives at Rifle vary from \$13.9 million to \$53.9 million.

The final course of action by the DOE with respect to these alternatives will be based on analyses to be reported in the final EIS. The final ruling will be announced in a Record of Decision not less than 30 days after the final EIS is issued.

This activity is being carried out under the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project, managed by the DOE from the UMTRA Project Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The DOE will hold a public hearing to allow interested groups and individuals an opportunity to comment on the contents of the draft EIS. The hearing will be held at 2 p.m. and reconvene at 7 p.m. on June 11, 1987, at the Rifle City Council Chambers, Rifle City Hall, 202 Railroad Avenue, in Rifle. Transcripts of this hearing will be made available by the DOE. The DOE will provide additional public notice prior to the formal public hearing.

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PDR WASTE
WM-62 PDR

Comments on the contents of the draft EIS may also be submitted in writing. Written comments should be addressed to:

James R. Anderson, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
5301 Central Avenue, NE, Suite 1720
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Individual copies of the draft EIS may be obtained by writing to the Project Manager in Albuquerque at the above address.

Copies of the draft EIS, and later, hearing transcripts will be available at the following locations:

Library, Idaho Operations Office
550 Second Street
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Library, Nevada Operations Office
2753 South Highland Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89114

Library, Oak Ridge Operations Office
Federal Building
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Library, Richland Operations Office
Federal Building
Richland, WA 99352

Library
Savannah River Operations Office
Aiken, SC 29801

Library, Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60639

Library, U.S. Department of Energy
Grand Junction Project Office
P. O. Box 14000
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Albuquerque Operations Office
National Atomic Museum
Kirtland Air Force Base East
Albuquerque, NM 87115

Freedom of Information Reading Room
Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resource Clinic
Fleming Law Building
Boulder, CO 80309

Rifle Branch Library
107 East Second Avenue
Rifle, CO 81650

Glenwood Springs Branch Library
513 9th
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Garfield County Public Library
402 West Main
New Castle, CO 81647

Mesa County Library
530 Grand Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Learning Resource Center, Mesa College
Box 2647
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Regional Energy/Environmental Center
1357 Broadway
Denver, CO 80210

The DOE has established a toll-free number as a public service for persons interested in the UMTRA Project. The UMTRA Project Office can be reached at 1-800-523-6495. Please leave a message on the answering machine and a project representative will return your call.

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For further information, contact: Ben E. McCarty (505) 844-6938
Jack Hoopes (505) 846-4015