

State of Colorado Issues

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NRC/NMA Uranium Recovery Workshop
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Colorado Uranium Recovery

- Cotter Uranium Mill
- New West Slope Mill
- In Situ Recovery
- Uranium Recovery from Ore/waste
- Site Closure

Cotter Uranium Mill

- Renewal license issued December 2004
- Adjudicatory appeal completed; final CDPHE decision issued January 2007
- Final decision to deny direct disposal under appeal in District Court
- Order on Consent used in lieu of license

Cotter Cañon City Mill



Cotter Uranium Mill

- Mill in stand down since January 2006
 - No receipt or processing of materials while in stand down
 - Incidents and violations led to separate Compliance Order
- License conditions
 - Readiness review prior to restart
 - Alternate feed allowed; direct disposal not allowed
 - Studies required for dewatering, dry placement and closure of secondary impoundment
 - Increased monitoring and characterization required

Cotter Uranium Mill

- Dewatering and dry placement study proposals accepted; completion ~ January 2008
- Secondary Impoundment closure study insufficient; directed completion of plan and closure
- Cotter has appealed requirement for closure plan
- Workgroup for redesign of cap

Cotter Uranium Mill

- Multiple legal actions by Cotter against the Department
 - Complaint in Denver District Court related to denial of direct disposal of initial Maywood soils
 - Several complaints in Denver District Court for judicial review and damages for final License decision (denial of direct disposal)
- Day to day relationship improved between organizations and staff

New West Slope Mill

- Proposed new uranium mill located in Naturita area (no application received)
- Likely clean site with no legacy contamination
- Anticipate modern design, construction and operation
 - Processing methods
 - Instrumentation/automation
 - Materials management
 - Environmental and safety features

In Situ Recovery

- Proposed for ~6000 acres NE of Ft Collins
- Primarily on private lands
- Areas previously explored in 1970's and 1980's.
- In situ pilot plant licensed in early 1980's; this would be first full scale operation
- Concentrates shipped offsite for final processing

Uranium Recovery Requirements

- Colorado statutes amended in 2002 and 2003 (Cotter bills)
- Establishes specific time frame for State approval, approval with conditions, or denial (435 to 465 days from license application)
- Emphasizes environmental impact report and county review (up to \$50,000 to county for review)
- Requires up-front public process for licensing

Uranium Recovery from Ore/waste

- West Slope company has proposed pilot process to recover uranium from ore and mine waste
- Full scale plant would move to sites with available residual materials and process on site.
- Recovered materials sent to mill or central location for final processing

Site Closure

- Uravan nearing completion
- Maybell completion pending paperwork
- Durita completion pending NRC decision on re-establishing discontinued groundwater monitoring
- Newmire being remediated as voluntary cleanup
- Gateway decommissioned through NRC grant and CDOT project
- CSMRI projects progressing slowly



Uravan - Former mill site and impoundments



Club Ranch Ponds Area



Gateway Mill cleanup...



... across the street from new destination resort.
