

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOE ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH STATE OF COLORADO FOR URANIUM MILL TAILINGS REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT

Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins and Colorado Governor Roy Romer today jointly announced their agreement regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) remedial action plan for the Grand Junction Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project.

Admiral Watkins has selected the Cheney disposal site as suitable for long-term disposal of the Grand Junction mill tailings. The Admiral has also determined that the tailings will be transported using the train/truck mode of transportation. The Admiral's announcement was delivered at a Grand Junction news conference by DOE Albuquerque Operations Manager Bruce G. Twining in conjunction with Governor Romer.

In announcing his decision, Admiral Watkins praised federal, state and local officials for their cooperation in allowing DOE to resolve the complex technical issues leading to the final decision.

Watkins said that the project should now move forward from a study and evaluation mode into an active phase of tailings remediation and disposal.

Additional studies performed at the Cheney site following discovery of groundwater under the original disposal cell determined that groundwater aquifers in the area would not be contaminated by mill tailings in the disposal cell.

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