



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE

memorandum

DATE: DEC 21 1982

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

cc: RAS
K. Howell

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: UMTRA:JGT

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statements and Conduct
Public Scoping Meetings

TO: John E. Baublitz, Chief of Reactor System and Applications, ER-532, HQS

Attached are Notices of Intent (NOI) to prepare environmental impact statements and conduct public scoping meetings for the remedial actions to be accomplished at the Grand Junction and Rifle UMTRA Project sites. Please forward these NOI's to the Office of Environmental Compliance for publication in the Federal Register.

In order to meet the public scoping meeting schedules given in the NOI's, the NOI's must be published in the Federal Register no later than January 7, 1983. Copies of the NOI's were sent via Express Mail on December 20 to Steve Woodbury to expedite the Headquarters review and meet the January 7 publication deadline.

Original Signed By
James A. Morley

James A. Morley, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

2 Attachments

cc:

C. Groelsema, NE-24, HQS, w/attachments
S. Woodbury, EP-33, HQS, w/o attachments
R. Marquez, OCC, AL, w/attachments
R. Krishnan, JEG, w/attachments
M. Merritt, Org. 9733, SNLA, w/o attachments
A. Hazle, CO Dept. of Health, w/attachments
R. Scarano, NRC, w/attachments

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Public Scoping Meetings for Remedial Actions at the Inactive Uranium Mill Tailings Site near Grand Junction, Colorado.

AGENCY: Department of Energy

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Energy intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess the environmental implications of remedial actions to be performed on the inactive uranium mill tailings pile and vicinity properties near Grand Junction, Colorado.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an EIS, in accordance with Section 102(2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to provide environmental input into the selection of an appropriate remedial action in connection with uranium mill tailings and other residual radioactive materials at an inactive uranium mill near Grand Junction, Colorado and at residences, commercial buildings, and open lands in the Grand Junction area which are contaminated with mill tailings derived from the inactive uranium mill. The DOE's proposed action is to perform remedial action pursuant to Public Law 95-604, the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978. Such remedial actions consist of those measures taken to stabilize or control the mill tailings to the extent necessary to ensure that the radiological and non-radiological hazards from the mill tailings do not exceed the standards for the protection of the public health, safety, and environment promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EIS will consider the options of remedial action and no remedial action. In addition, the EIS will consider the following remedial action alternatives:

stabilization of the tailings in their present location and removal of the tailings to either of two new disposal sites. The preferred remedial action alternative will be identified in the draft EIS or the final EIS. In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for compliance with NEPA (40 CFR Part 1501), the DOE is serving as the lead agency for preparation of the EIS; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will participate as a cooperating agency.

The DOE invites interested agencies, organizations, and members of the general public to submit comments or suggestions for consideration in connection with the preparation of the draft EIS. Comments or suggestions to assist the DOE in identifying significant environmental issues and the appropriate scope of the draft EIS are requested. Comments may be submitted by mail or presented at scoping meetings to be held in Grand Junction, Colorado, on January 25 & 26, 1983. On completion of the draft EIS, notice of its availability will be announced in the Federal Register, and comments will be solicited. Comments on the draft EIS will be considered in preparing the final EIS.

ADDRESS: Written comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS and requests to speak at the scoping meeting may be submitted to

Mr. James A. Morley
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office
Albuquerque Operations Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87115

Envelopes should be marked "DEIS for Grand Junction tailings pile."

General information on the process followed by the DOE in preparing environmental impact statements may be obtained from

Office of Environmental Compliance
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Protection, Safety,
and Emergency Preparedness
U.S. Department of Energy
ATTN: Mr. Steven R. Woodbury
Room 4G-064, Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
(202) 252-4610

DATES: Written comments postmarked by January 31, 1983 will be considered in the preparation of the DEIS. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the maximum extent practicable. Scoping meetings will be held in Grand Junction, Colorado, on January 25 & 26, 1983. Requests to speak at this meeting should be received by J. A. Morley at the above address by January 15, 1983. Requests to speak may also be made during registration for the meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 1978 the U.S. Congress passed the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act, Public Law 95-604. In this Act the Congress found that uranium mill tailings may pose a significant radiation health hazard to the public and directed the DOE to designate processing sites for remedial action to remove this potential hazard. The DOE has designated 24 sites for remedial action, including the former Climax Uranium Company site near Grand Junction, Colorado. Public Law 96-604 requires that the DOE carry out remedial action at each site in cooperation with other agencies and with the states and Indian tribes affected by the action. The NRC's statutory responsibilities include consulting with the DOE over a range of subjects concerning the conduct of the remedial action, concurring with the selected remedial action and with any cooperative agreement with a state or Indian tribe, and licensing the long-term maintenance and monitoring of each tailings-disposal site after the remedial action is completed. In view of its statutorily-prescribed role in connection with the remedial action program, the NRC is a "cooperating agency" as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1508.5). In addition, the EPA

was given the responsibility to set standards to protect public health, safety, and the environment at the tailings sites and the disposal sites. Any remedial action must be in accordance with these EPA standards. The EPA issued standards governing the cleanup and disposal of the mill tailings and other residual radioactive materials on December 15, 1982.

Pursuant to Public Law 95-604, the DOE and the State of Colorado entered into a cooperative agreement, effective October 19, 1981, in order to implement the remedial action program at the nine Colorado processing sites designated by the DOE, including the former Climax Uranium Company site near Grand Junction. The State of Colorado will assist the DOE in scoping, scoping meetings, hearings on the draft EIS, and in connection with other NEPA process matters.

The former Climax Uranium Company site is south of Grand Junction, just outside the city limits. From 1951 to 1970 a mill built on the site processed uranium and vanadium ores. Between 1951 and 1966 uranium and some vanadium was produced under contract to the Federal government. The rest of the vanadium was sold commercially, as was the uranium produced after 1966. The original 203-acre site was owned by the Climax Uranium Company, but between 1970 and 1976 the land was divided and sold. Some of the mill buildings are still standing, and the tailings from the operations remain in one large pile covering about 59 acres. The tailings pile, the mill-building area, and the area of the old effluent ponds now comprise the processing site designated for remedial action by the DOE. Portions of the designated site are owned by the Sand Extraction Company (61 acres), Bess Investments (7 acres), and the State of Colorado (40 acres). The remaining 95 acres, although not included in the designated site, will be cleaned up as well.

In addition, about 300,000 tons of tailings were carried offsite and used locally in building materials and as fill on properties in the vicinity of Grand Junction. In 1972, Congress passed Public Law 92-314 (later amended by Public Law 95-236) authorizing a cooperative Federal and state program to perform remedial actions on structures in Grand Junction. Several hundred structures have been cleaned up under this program. The tailings and other contaminated materials removed during this work are being temporarily stored on the state-owned portion of the designated site and will be permanently disposed of along with the undisturbed tailings as part of the present remedial action program.

The DOE has made preliminary assessments of the tailings pile at the former Climax Uranium Company site and of possible remedial actions. A document describing the preliminary assessments of the Grand Junction tailings is the "Phase II Title I Engineering Assessment of Inactive Uranium Mill Tailings, Grand Junction Site, Grand Junction, Colorado" (DOE/UMT-0105), which is available for public inspection at the locations listed at the end of this notice. The State of Colorado investigated several areas in which the tailings might safely be permanently disposed of and recommended four of them to the DOE as possible candidate disposal sites for further study. The DOE has selected two of these sites for detailed analysis in the draft EIS.

In order to proceed with the selection of an appropriate remedial action, the DOE will prepare an EIS that will analyze the effects of all reasonable alternatives. After the completion of a final EIS based on the draft EIS and comments on the draft EIS, the plan for remedial action on the Grand Junction tailings will be selected, probably in 1984. The remedial action could then begin in 1985 and be completed during 1989, subject to the appropriation of

sufficient funds by the Congress and by the State of Colorado to cover the remedial action costs.

PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Major issues to be analyzed during the preparation of the EIS will include

1. Exposures to radiation that the public and the workers on the project will receive from routine operations.
2. Exposures to radiation from hypothetical accidents that release radioactive material.
3. Effects on surface and ground waters.
4. Effects on transportation networks, including changes in traffic patterns and volumes.
5. Effects of accidents other than effects arising from releases of radioactive material.

Other issues to be analyzed will include

1. Changes in air quality caused by dust and other pollutants.
2. Effects on soils and mineral resources.
3. Effects on plants and animals.

4. Changes in land use.
5. Changes in noise levels during the actions.
6. Effects on scenic, historic, and cultural resources.
7. Changes in population and effects on housing, social structure, services, and economic structure in the communities near the affected places.
8. Expected use of energy and other resources.
9. Benefits of reprocessing the tailings to recover minerals.

The lists are not intended to be all-inclusive nor to be a predetermination of impacts.

Analyses of the listed effects will be made for the mill-tailings site, the disposal sites, the reprocessing sites if any, the transportation routes, and the sites where cover material is obtained. The analyses, made for all the alternative actions, will cover both the time when the remedial action is in progress and the time after it has been completed.

PRELIMINARY DEFINITION OF ALTERNATIVES: The DOE will consider all reasonable alternatives to the proposed action and their environmental impacts. The alternative actions presently proposed for analysis in the draft EIS are briefly listed below. This list may be longer or shorter in the draft EIS itself.

Alternative 1: No Action

Under this alternative, the tailings pile would be left in place; no measures would be taken to control or stabilize the tailings.

Alternative 2: Stabilization in Place

This alternative consists of decontaminating Grand Junction vicinity properties and consolidating all residual radioactive materials removed from such properties with the tailings pile at the former Climax Uranium Company site.

All mill tailings and residual radioactive materials would then be stabilized at the site, including the emplacement of cover material to reduce the radon flux in accordance with prescribed EPA standards.

Alternative 3: Decontamination of the Former Climax Uranium Company Site and Removal of the Tailings to a New Disposal Site

This alternative involves selecting a site for stabilization and control of the tailings and other residual radioactive materials other than the former Climax Uranium Company site. All residual radioactive materials removed from Grand Junction vicinity properties and the uranium mill tailings pile at the former Climax Uranium Company site would be transported to either of the following two state-recommended sites:

- a. 6&50 Reservoir Site. The site is about 24 miles northwest of Grand Junction and about 6 miles west of the community of Mack. Route 6&50 runs north of the site, and Interstate 70 passes to the south. The site is used for grazing, and there are no oil and gas leases on the site. The site is underlain by Mancos Formation shale.

b. Cheney Reservoir Site. The site is about 17 miles southwest of Grand Junction and 5 miles southeast of the community of Whitewater. The site lies near Route 50 and is used for grazing. An electric power-transmission line runs across the site. The area just north, along Kannah Creek, is intensively farmed. There are a number of oil and gas leases on the site. Parcels of privately owned land adjoin the site on three sides. The site is underlain by Mancos Formation shale.

The other sites nominated by the state include the East Salt Creek site, which is similar to and in the same area as the 6&50 Reservoir site, and the Lucas Mesa site, which is about 4 miles from the town of Debeque and 2 miles south of the Colorado River.

COMMENTS AND SCOPING MEETING: The DOE invites all interested parties to submit written comments or suggestions on the draft EIS and to attend the scoping meetings. The purposes of the meetings and of the request for written comments are to provide the DOE, the NRC, and the state with as much information from as many viewpoints as possible and to provide interested persons with opportunities to express their views. The DOE will then determine, in consultation with the NRC and the state, the scope of the issues to be addressed in the draft EIS and will identify the significant issues related to the remedial action.

Public scoping meetings will be held in Grand Junction, Colorado, on January 25 & 26, 1983. The time and place will be announced in local news publications; they may also be obtained from J. A. Morley at the address given above.

Persons desiring to make oral comments at the meetings should mail their requests to J. A. Morley at the above address and should write "Grand Junction scoping meetings" on the envelope. They should notify the DOE of their desire to speak before January 15, 1983, so that the DOE may arrange a schedule for the presentations.

The DOE will establish procedures governing the conduct of the meetings. The meetings will not be conducted as evidentiary hearings, and those who choose to make statements may not be cross-examined by other speakers. To ensure that everyone who wishes to speak has a chance to do so, five minutes will be allotted to each speaker. Depending on the number of persons requesting to be heard, the DOE may allow longer times for representatives of organizations; persons wishing to speak on behalf of an organization should identify the organization in their request. Persons who have not submitted a request to speak in advance may register to speak at the scoping meetings; they will be called on to present their comments if time permits.

Written comments and suggestions for issues to be addressed in the draft EIS should be sent to J. A. Morley at the address given above by January 31, 1983. Written comments will be considered and given equal weight with oral comments in the preparation of the EIS.

On the completion of the draft EIS, notice of its availability will be announced in the Federal Register, and the Department of Energy will again solicit comments. Persons who do not desire to submit comments or suggestions during the scoping period but who wish to receive a copy of the draft EIS for review and comment when it is issued should notify J. A. Morley at the above address. Persons seeking further information may inquire at either of

the addresses given above.

Transcripts of the scoping meetings will be prepared by the DOE and made available at the Freedom of Information Reading Room, Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, members of the public may inspect the transcripts of the scoping meetings and other documents now planned for use in preparing the draft EIS at the following locations:

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

Bendix Field Engineering Library
P. O. Box 2567
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502

Mesa County Library
530 Grand Avenue
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
Attn: Terry Pickens

Learning Resource Center

Mesa College

P. O. Box 2647

Grand Junction, Colorado 81502

Attn: Mr. Charles Hendrickson

Rifle Branch Library

337 East Avenue

Rifle, Colorado 81650

Albuquerque Operations Office

National Atomic Museum

Kirtland Air Force Base East

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Chicago Operations Office

9800 South Cass Avenue

Argonne, Illinois 60639

Idaho Operations Office

550 Second Street

Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Nevada Operations Office

2753 South Highland Drive

Las Vegas, Nevada 89114

Oak Ridge Operations Office
Federal Building
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Richland Operations Office
Federal Building
Richland, Washington 99352

Energy Information Center
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Savannah River Operations Office
Savannah River Plant
Aiken, South Carolina 29801

Regional Energy/Environment Information Center
Denver Public Library
1357 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80210

Dated at Washington, D.C., this ____ day of _____ 198_.

For the United States Department of Energy.

Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Protection,
Safety, and Emergency Preparedness

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct a Public Scoping Meeting for Remedial Actions at the Inactive Uranium Mill Tailings Sites near Rifle, Colorado.

AGENCY: Department of Energy

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Energy intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess the environmental implications of remedial actions to be performed on the inactive uranium mill tailings piles and vicinity properties near Rifle, Colorado.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an EIS, in accordance with Section 102(2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to provide environmental input into the selection of an appropriate remedial action in connection with uranium mill tailings and other residual radioactive materials at two inactive uranium mills near Rifle, Colorado, and at residences, commercial buildings, and open lands in the Rifle area which are contaminated with mill tailings derived from the inactive uranium mills. The DOE's proposed action is to perform remedial action pursuant to Public Law 95-604, the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978. Such remedial actions consist of those measures taken to stabilize or control the mill tailings to the extent necessary to ensure that the radiological and non-radiological hazards from the mill tailings do not exceed the standards for the protection of the public health, safety, and environment promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EIS will consider the options of remedial action and no remedial action. In addition, the EIS will consider the following remedial action alternatives: stabilization of the

tailings in their present locations, consolidation and stabilization of the tailings at one of the present locations, and removal of the tailings from both locations to a new disposal site. The preferred remedial action alternative will be identified in the draft EIS or the final EIS. In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for compliance with NEPA (40 CFR Part 1501), the DOE is serving as the lead agency for preparation of the EIS; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will participate as a cooperating agency.

The DOE invites interested agencies, organizations, and members of the general public to submit comments or suggestions for consideration in connection with the preparation of the draft EIS. Comments or suggestions to assist the DOE in identifying significant environmental issues and the appropriate scope of the draft EIS are requested. Comments may be submitted by mail or presented at scoping meetings to be held in Rifle, Colorado, on January 24 and 25, 1983. On completion of the draft EIS, notice of its availability will be announced in the Federal Register, and comments will be solicited. Comments on the draft EIS will be considered in preparing the final EIS.

ADDRESS: Written comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS and requests to speak at the scoping meetings may be submitted to

Mr. James A. Morley
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office
Albuquerque Operations Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87115

Envelopes should be marked "DEIS for Rifle tailings piles."

General information on the process followed by the DOE in preparing

environmental impact statements may be obtained from

Office of Environmental Compliance
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Protection, Safety,
and Emergency Preparedness
U.S. Department of Energy
ATTN: Mr. Steven R. Woodbury
Room 4G-064, Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
(202) 252-4610

DATES: Written comments postmarked by January 31, 1983 will be considered in the preparation of the DEIS. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the maximum extent practicable. Scoping meetings will be held in Rifle, Colorado, on January 24 and 25, 1983. Requests to speak at these meeting should be received by J. A. Morley at the above address by January 15, 1983. Requests to speak may also be made during registration for the meetings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 1978 the U.S. Congress passed the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act, Public Law 95-604. In this Act the Congress found that uranium mill tailings may pose a significant radiation health hazard to the public and directed the DOE to designate processing sites for remedial action to remove this potential hazard. The DOE has designated 24 sites for remedial action, including the two Union Carbide Corporation sites near Rifle. Public Law 95-604 requires that the the DOE carry out remedial action at each site in cooperation with other agencies and with the states and Indian tribes affected by the action. The NRC's statutory responsibilities include consulting with the DOE over a range of subjects concerning the conduct of the remedial action, concurring with the selected remedial action and with any cooperative agreement with a state or Indian tribe, and licensing the long-term maintenance and monitoring of each tailings-disposal site after the remedial action is completed. In view of its statutorily-prescribed role in connection with the remedial action program, the NRC is a "cooperating agency" as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations

implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1508.5). In addition, the EPA was given the responsibility to set standards to protect public health, safety, and the environment at the tailings sites and the disposal sites. Any remedial action must be in accordance with these EPA standards. The EPA issued standards governing the cleanup and disposal of the mill tailings and other residual radioactive materials on December 15, 1982.

Pursuant to Public Law 95-604, the DOE and the State of Colorado entered into a cooperative agreement, effective October 19, 1981, in order to implement the remedial action program at the nine Colorado processing sites designated by the DOE, including the inactive Union Carbide Corporation sites near Rifle. The State of Colorado will assist the DOE in scoping, scoping meetings, hearings on the draft EIS, and in connection with other NEPA process matters.

The Old Rifle site is 0.3 mile east of the city of Rifle in Garfield County, Colorado. The 22-acre site is owned by the Union Carbide Corporation. At first only vanadium was produced, but in 1946 a uranium-recovery capability was added. Between 1947 and 1958, over 2100 tons of uranium produced by the mill were purchased by the Federal government. After 1958, about half of the tailings originally on the site was transferred to the New Rifle site for reprocessing. The remaining 400,000 tons of tailings occupy about 11 acres. The old mill area occupies the rest of the site, but only one building is still standing. The rather flat tailings pile is stabilized with vegetative cover maintained by the Union Carbide Corporation. On the south the site is separated from the Colorado River by the tracks and embankment of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad; Route 6 & 24 passes just north of the site.

The New Rifle site is 2 miles west of the City of Rifle in Garfield County, Colorado. The 300-acre site is owned by the Union Carbide Corporation. About half the site is occupied by the mill, which is still in intermittent operation processing vanadium liquors. The New Rifle mill began operating in 1958, and between 1958 and 1970, over 5000 tons of uranium produced by the mill were purchased by the Federal government. The uranium produced during 1971 and 1972 and all of the vanadium produced by the mill were sold commercially. About 2.7 million tons of tailings, which cover about 32 acres, are in a two-level pile, the upper terrace of which is about 70 feet high and the lower terrace of which is about 45 feet high. The pile is stabilized with vegetative cover maintained by the Union Carbide Corporation. In addition to the mill area and the tailings pile, the site includes 2 ore-storage areas, settling and effluent ponds, and a large unused area west of the tailings pile. The site is bounded on the east and south by the Colorado River, and on the south Interstate 70 runs at the edge of the site between the river and the tailings. Highway 6 & 24 and the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad pass just north of the site.

Vicinity properties contaminated with either windblown tailings or other residual radioactive material from either site will be cleaned up as a part of the remedial action program.

The DOE has made preliminary assessments of the tailings piles at the Union Carbide Corporation's Rifle sites and of possible remedial actions. A document describing the preliminary assessments of the Rifle tailings is the "Engineering Assessment of Inactive Uranium Mill Tailings, Old and New Rifle Sites, Rifle, Colorado" (DOE/UMT-0108), which is available for public inspection at the locations listed at the end of this notice. The State of

Colorado investigated several areas in which the tailings might safely be permanently disposed of and recommended four of them to the DOE as possible candidate disposal sites for further study. The DOE has selected one of these sites for detailed analysis in the draft EIS.

In order to proceed with the selection of an appropriate remedial action, the DOE will prepare an EIS that will analyze the effects of all reasonable alternatives. After the completion of a final EIS based on the draft EIS and comments on the draft EIS, the plan for remedial action on the Rifle tailings will be selected, probably in 1984. The remedial action could then begin in 1985 and be completed during 1987, subject to the appropriation of sufficient funds by the Congress and by the State of Colorado to cover the remedial action costs.

PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Major issues to be analyzed during the preparation of the EIS will include

1. Exposures to radiation that the public and the workers on the project will receive from routine operations.
2. Exposures to radiation from hypothetical accidents that release radioactive material.
3. Effects on surface and ground waters.
4. Effects on transportation networks, including changes in traffic patterns and volumes.
5. Effects of accidents other than effects arising from releases of radioactive material.

Other issues to be analyzed will include

1. Changes in air quality caused by dust and other pollutants.
2. Effects on soils and mineral resources.
3. Effects on plants and animals.
4. Changes in land use.
5. Changes in noise levels during the actions.
6. Effects on scenic, historic, and cultural resources.
7. Changes in population and effects on housing, social structure, services, and economic structure in the communities near the affected places.
8. Expected use of energy and other resources.
9. Benefits of reprocessing the tailings to recover minerals.

The lists are not intended to be all-inclusive nor to be a predetermination of impacts.

Analyses of the listed effects will be made for the mill-tailings site, the disposal sites, the reprocessing sites if any, the transportation routes, and the sites where cover material is obtained. The analyses, made for all the alternative actions, will cover both the time when the remedial action is in progress and the time after it has been completed.

PRELIMINARY DEFINITION OF ALTERNATIVES: The DOE will consider all reasonable alternatives to the proposed action and their environmental impacts. The alternative actions presently proposed for analysis in the draft EIS are

briefly listed below. This list may be longer or shorter in the draft EIS itself.

Alternative 1: No Action

Under this alternative, the tailings piles would be left in place; no measures would be taken to control or stabilize the tailings.

Alternative 2: Stabilization in Place

This alternative consists of decontaminating the Rifle vicinity properties and consolidating all residual radioactive materials removed from such properties with the tailings piles at the Union Carbide Corporation sites.

All mill tailings and residual radioactive materials would then be stabilized at the sites; stabilization will include the emplacement of cover material to reduce the radon flux in accordance with prescribed EPA standards.

Alternative 3: Consolidation and Stabilization in Place at the Union Carbide Corporation New Rifle Site

This alternative involves consolidating all residual radioactive materials from Rifle vicinity properties and the tailings from one of the Union Carbide Corporation sites at the remaining Union Carbide Corporation site. The New Rifle site is the only one of the two sites with enough unused area to conveniently accommodate additional tailings. The uranium mill tailings from the Old Rifle site would be moved to the New Rifle site, and the former would be decontaminated and released for other use. The material consolidated at

the New Rifle site would be stabilized as in Alternative 2 above.

Alternative 4: Decontamination of the Union Carbide Corporation sites and
Removal of the Tailings to a New Disposal Site

This alternative involves selecting a site for stabilization and control of the tailings and other residual radioactive materials other than the Union Carbide Corporation sites. All residual radioactive materials removed from Rifle vicinity properties and the uranium mill tailings piles at the Union Carbide Corporation sites would be transported to the following state-recommended site.

a. The Lucas Mesa site is 2 miles south of the Colorado River on a mesa that rises about 1000 feet above the surrounding terrain. It is about 4 miles from the town of DeBeque and about midway between Rifle and Grand Junction. The site, which is Federally owned, is used for grazing and is subject to several leases for oil and gas exploration. The site is surrounded by privately owned parcels of land, and the land to the north in the Colorado River valley is intensively farmed. The site is underlain by the Wasatch Formation.

The other sites nominated by the state include the East Salt Creek site and the 6 & 50 Reservoir site, both of which are west of Grand Junction, and the Cheney Reservoir site, which is southeast of Grand Junction. They are more suitable for disposal of the tailings from the Grand Junction site, and two of them are will be examined in detail in a separate EIS on the Grand Junction tailings.

COMMENTS AND SCOPING MEETING: The DOE invites all interested parties to submit written comments or suggestions on the draft EIS and to attend the scoping meetings. The purposes of the meetings and of the request for written comments are to provide the DOE, the NRC, and the state with as much information from as many viewpoints as possible and to provide interested persons with opportunities to express their views. The DOE will then determine, in consultation with the NRC and the state, the scope of the issues to be addressed in the draft EIS and will identify the significant issues related to the remedial action.

Public scoping meetings will be held in Rifle, Colorado, on January 24 and 25, 1983. The times and place will be announced in local news publications; they may also be obtained from J. A. Morley at the address given above.

Persons desiring to make oral comments at the meetings should mail their requests to J. A. Morley at the above address and should write "Rifle scoping meetings" on the envelope. They should notify the DOE of their desire to speak before January 15, 1983, so that the DOE may arrange a schedule for the presentations.

The DOE will establish procedures governing the conduct of the meetings. The meetings will not be conducted as evidentiary hearings, and those who choose to make statements may not be cross-examined by other speakers. To ensure that everyone who wishes to speak has a chance to do so, five minutes will be allotted to each speaker. Depending on the number of persons requesting to be heard, the DOE may allow longer times for representatives of organizations; persons wishing to speak on behalf of an organization should identify the organization in their request. Persons who have not submitted a request to

Speak in advance may register to speak at the scoping meetings; they will be called on to present their comments if time permits.

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Transcripts of the scoping meetings will be prepared by the DOE and made available at the Freedom of Information Reading Room, Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, members of the public may inspect the transcripts of the scoping meetings and other documents now planned for use in preparing the draft EIS at the following locations:

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

Bendix Field Engineering Library
P. O. Box 2567
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502

Mesa County Library
530 Grand Avenue
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
Attn: Terry Pickens

Learning Resource Center
Mesa College
P. O. Box 2647
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502
Attn: Mr. Charles Hendrickson

Rifle Branch Library
337 East Avenue
Rifle, Colorado 81650

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

Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60639

Idaho Operations Office
550 Second Street
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

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

Oak Ridge Operations Office
Federal Building
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Richland Operations Office
Federal Building
Richland, Washington 99352

Energy Information Center
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Savannah River Operations Office

Savannah River Plant

Aiken, South Carolina 29801

Regional Energy/Environment Information Center

Denver Public Library

1357 Broadway

Denver, Colorado 80210

Dated at Washington, D.C., this ____ day of _____ 198_.

For the United States Department of Energy.

Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Protection,
Safety, and Emergency Preparedness