

M. Hiegel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RIVERTON TAILINGS HAUL BEGINS

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) began transporting the 1.7 million cubic yards of uranium mill tailings from the inactive Susquehanna-Western uranium mill tailings site on May 20, 1988 by truck to the active UMETCO uranium mill site in the Gas Hills Mining District approximately 50 miles east of Riverton.

The tailings haul, originally scheduled to begin in early June, is expected to conclude in the spring of 1990.

The initial site work to support remedial action involved the construction of a water retention basin, a site access road, and the demolition of existing mill buildings.

In order to maintain safety standards along the haul route, the speed limit on Wyoming Highway 789 has been reduced to 30 mph on the portions of the highway approaching the intersection of Wyoming Highway 138. In addition, preparations are underway for the installation of a traffic light at this intersection.

The project is expected to provide more than \$21 million in economic benefits to the Riverton area, as well as the creation of more than 400 jobs.

The Riverton site is one of two Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project sites in Wyoming scheduled for cleanup under Title I of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-604). A total of 24 sites nationwide will be cleaned up by the DOE. Remedial action has been completed at Canonsburg, Pennsylvania and Shiprock, New Mexico and is currently in progress at Durango, Colorado, Lakeview, Oregon, Salt Lake City, Utah, Tuba City, Arizona, and Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico.

Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. is the Technical Assistance Contractor for DOE on the UMTRA Project. MK-Ferguson Company, Inc. (MK-F) is the Remedial Action Contractor on the UMTRA Project. Actual construction work at Riverton will be performed by UMETCO Minerals Corporation under a subcontract to MK-F.

The DOE has established a toll-free number as a public service for those interested in the tailings cleanup project. Persons desiring additional information on the Riverton site or on the UMTRA Project in general may reach the Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office at 1-800-523-6495. Please leave your name, number and a message. A project representative will promptly return the call.

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

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PDR WASTE
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