

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE
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ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87115

DOE NEWS:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 1988

DOE CONTRACTOR ESTABLISHES OFFICE IN GRAND JUNCTION FOR TAILINGS CLEANUP

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today that MK-Ferguson Company has established an area office in Grand Junction, Colorado to initiate cleanup activities at Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project sites at Grand Junction and Rifle, Colorado and Green River, Utah.

MK-Ferguson is the DOE's Remedial Action Contractor for cleanup of inactive uranium processing sites included in the nationwide program. Ten sites are located within 100 miles of Grand Junction.

Construction activities are scheduled to begin this summer at the Grand Junction, Rifle, and Green River sites. The Grand Junction area office will support work at these sites and at five other Colorado tailings sites planned for remedial action by 1994.

As DOE's Remedial Action Contractor, MK-Ferguson performs final engineering and design tasks and manages construction of stabilized tailings piles at each site. Actual construction work is performed by firms selected through a competitive procurement process. MK-Ferguson field offices have been or will be established at each site to supervise construction work.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has promulgated standards for the remedial actions. To comply with the EPA standards, the stabilized tailings piles are designed to reduce emissions of radon gas to safe levels, to withstand the forces of erosion for at least two hundred years, and to protect groundwater.

Cleanup of UMTRA Project sites has been mandated by Congress under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-604). Nationwide, 24 sites are being cleaned up by DOE. Utah and Colorado have entered into cooperative agreements with the DOE to participate in the tailings cleanup program.

Remedial action has been completed at tailings sites in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania and Shiprock, New Mexico, and is in progress at Durango, Colorado, Lakeview, Oregon, Tuba City, Arizona, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Riverton, Wyoming.

MK-Ferguson is a subsidiary of Morrison-Knudsen Corporation located in Boise, Idaho. MK-Ferguson has been under contract to DOE on the UMTRA Project since 1983.

The MK-Ferguson area office in Grand Junction is located at 820 South Ninth Street. Questions or comments regarding MK-Ferguson activities on the tailings cleanup project in Colorado may be directed to Joe Heitkamp, Area Manager, in Grand Junction at (303) 241-9132 or at P.O. Box 2737, Grand Junction, Colorado, 81502.

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Persons wishing additional information on the UMTRA Project in general may reach the DOE toll-free at 1-800-523-6495 (in New Mexico, call 1-800-423-2539) to leave a message on an answering machine. A project representative will return the call promptly.

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