



**U.S. Department of Energy**  
Grand Junction Office  
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WM-61

Received: 9/4/03

Ms. Susan Frant, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch, NMSS  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop T8A33  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**Subject: Monitor Wells at the Gunnison, Colorado, UMTRA Project Site**

Dear Ms. Frant:

The Gunnison processing site has been characterized and the proposed ground water clean up strategy is natural flushing in conjunction with compliance monitoring and institutional controls. A long-term monitoring network consisting of 13 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) monitor wells, along with 4 surface water locations and 7 domestic wells, has been established in the Site Observational Work Plan (SOWP), March 2001. The monitoring program has also been documented in the Ground Water Compliance Action Plan, July 2001. Annual sampling, according to this plan, was initiated at the Gunnison site in May 2001.

Based on comments by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) (letter to DOE of January 29, 2002) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on the SOWP, DOE plans to install two additional monitor wells into the intermediate and deep zones of the alluvial aquifer downgradient from the Gunnison processing site to better evaluate the extent of the site-related plume in ground water and assess predicted cleanup through the natural flushing process. Of specific concern is the area where ground water flow and transport modeling has predicted that uranium concentrations may exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standard at 100 years (Figure 2 of Appendix H, SOWP). DOE is preparing to implement this request during FY 2004 and would like confirmation from NRC and CDPHE that this action will address the comments and provide an acceptable long-term ground water monitoring network in the vicinity of the Gunnison site.

In conjunction with this, DOE proposes to decommission 46 existing DOE monitor wells in the vicinity of the site not included in the proposed monitoring network (see attached Figure and Table). It is recommended that these monitor wells be decommissioned (in accordance with UMTRA Ground Water Project and State of Colorado regulations) in the interest of protecting ground water in the alluvial aquifer, removing unneeded wells from private property, minimizing access agreements and related expenses, and decreasing DOE liability. DOE would like to perform the monitor well decommissioning activities simultaneously with the installation of the new monitor wells for efficiency and cost-effectiveness, involving only one mobilization of drilling equipment to perform all tasks at the site. If regulatory approval is not granted for the decommissioning phase of the program, DOE may consider deferring installation of the new

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monitor wells until a later time when regulatory concurrence is received for the proposed monitoring program, and both activities may be performed concurrently.

In order to expedite this process, DOE would appreciate your input and concurrence on this plan early in FY 2004 to allow for issuance of a *Statement of Work and Request for Proposal* for the combined fieldwork in June 2004, and the award of a drilling contract by August 2004. Work could then commence in the field in early September 2004 (dependent on when irrigation flooding of the pasture southwest of the site is discontinued for the year).

It is suggested that this should be a topic of discussion during the Gunnison site visit on September 11, 2003, with NRC and CDPHE. If you have any questions, please contact me at 970/248-7612.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Metzler, P.Hg.  
Program Manager

Enclosures (2)

cc w/enclosures:

W. Naugle, CDPHE

R. Linton, NRC

B. Von Till, NRC

A. Kleinrath, DOE-GJO

C. Bahrke, Stoller

R. Heydenburg, Stoller

C. Jacobson, Stoller

Project File GWGUN 3.2.3 (Thru R. Burrows)

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<b>Shallow Zone Intermediate Zone Deep Zone</b>								
<b>Well</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Screen</b>	<b>Well</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Screen</b>	<b>Well</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Screen</b>
0001	20	8-13	0002	40	30-35	0121	103	93-98
0002	20	10-15	0003	50	30-50	0122	100	78-83
0003	20	10-15	0041	63	31-61	0127	103	94-99
0005	20	10-15	0042	58	44-54	0132	101	94-99
0006	20	10-15	0043	58	44-54	0137	112	93-98
0007	21	11-16	0044	64	31-61	0142	100	92-97
0009	20	10-15	0045	54	41-51	0147	101	93-98
0010	18	8-13	0046	54	41-51	0152	101	90-95
0011	20	10-15	0047	63	30-60	0161	100	93-98
0012	20	10-15	0048	54	41-51	0170	141	134-139
0013	21	11-16	0049	53	40-50	0183	101	93-98
0014	20	10-15	0101	52	42-47	0185	101	93-98
0058	20	15-20	0102	52	42-47	0187	101	93-98
0059	20	15-20	0103	50	40-45	0189	101	93-98
0060	20	15-20	0104	70	60-65	0194	94	76-81
0061	20	15-20	0105	52	42-47	0197	100	93-98
0088	19	14-19	0106	55	34-39			
0096	20	15-20	0107	53	43-48			
0097	20	15-20	0109	60	45-50			
0120	41	18-23	0111	49	39-44			
0125	25	18-23	0110	52	42-47			
0130	26	18-23	0112	50	40-45			
0133	21	14-19	0113	51	41-46			
0134	21	14-19	0123	61	53-58			
0135	25	18-23	0126	61	54-59			
0140	26	18-23	0136	61	53-58			
0143	27	18-23	0141	61	53-58			
0145	27	18-23	0160	75	51-56			
0181	28	18-23	0163	61	54-59			
			0184	61	53-58			
			0186	61	53-58			
			0188	61	53-58			
			0189	60	53-58			
			0196	60	53-58			
(0000)	Abd Well		20					
	To be Abd		46					
	Mntrg Ntwrk		13					
			79					

