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DOE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON SHIPROCK CONSTRUCTION PLANS

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will hold a public meeting at the Shiprock Community Chapter House in Shiprock, New Mexico, at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 22. The meeting will be held to discuss construction plans and schedules for clean-up work on the inactive uranium mill tailings pile just South of Shiprock.

Representatives from DOE and its contractors will give a presentation on the work activities which are planned for this summer and fall leading towards stabilization of the tailings piles, which contain about 2.8 million cubic yards of material. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation.

Stabilization of the Shiprock tailings will generally consist of consolidating and compacting the tailings and contaminated soils into a gently sloping embankment. The contaminated materials will be covered with a compacted earthen cover to control the escape of radon gas and inhibit water infiltration. The cover would then be capped with rock to counter erosional effects of wind and rain.

Work at the Shiprock site is being managed by DOE's Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

-DOE-

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