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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will hold meetings in Grand Junction and Rifle, Colorado, to describe progress of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project and to review proposed changes in the scope of the Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's) for clean-up of the Grand Junction and Rifle inactive uranium mill tailings sites.

The first meeting will take place at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 28, at the Rifle City Building, 202 Railroad Avenue, Rifle, Colorado. The second set of meetings will take place at 2 and 7 pm on Wednesday, May 29, at the Grand Junction City Hall Auditorium. The public is invited to attend and comment on the proposed changes to the scope of the EIS's.

The DOE held similar meetings in Grand Junction and Rifle in February of 1983. Comments from those meetings have been factored into the EIS's for each site.

The DOE plans to modify the scope of the EIS's for remedial actions on the inactive uranium mill sites and associated vicinity properties near Grand Junction and Rifle, Colorado.

For the Grand Junction EIS, the following alternatives will be considered:

- o Stabilization on site.
- o Relocation to Cheney Reservoir site by train and truck.
- o Relocation to Cheney Reservoir site by truck.
- o Relocation to Two Road site by train and truck.
- o Relocation to Two Road site by truck.
- o No action.

The Rifle EIS will consider:

- o Stabilization of the tailings in their present locations.
- o Relocation of old Rifle tailings to new Rifle site.

- o Relocation of old and new Rifle tailings to Lucas Mesa by train.
- o Relocation of old and new Rifle tailings to Lucas Mesa by truck.
- o Relocation of old and new Rifle tailings to an unspecified site.
- o No action.

The EIS's will not consider in detail relocation and consolidation of the Grand Junction and Rifle tailings at the Lucas Mesa site because preliminary investigations have shown that the environmental impacts and costs of this alternative would be unreasonably high.

The Grand Junction EIS will not address relocation of the Grand Junction tailings to the 6 & 50 site because the 6 & 50 site is located near the Two Road site and the environmental impacts of the 6 & 50 alternative would be very similar to the Two Road alternative. The Two Road site was selected because it has flatter and less erosive terrain than the 6 & 50 site and also has more suitable subsurface conditions.

The Rifle EIS will address an additional relocation alternative site. This site will be identified in concert with the State of Colorado.

These activities are being managed by the DOE's UMTRA Project Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, under authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978.

-DOE-

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