



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 16, 2022

Via email: [John.Saxton@nrc.gov](mailto:John.Saxton@nrc.gov)

Mr. John Saxton, Project Manager  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop T8F5  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management Aerial Survey at the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site (NRC No. WM-0.062)

Dear Mr. Saxton:

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (LM) is planning to conduct an aerial survey at the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site the week of July 25.

To conduct the aerial survey, LM will utilize a small, unmanned aircraft system (sUAS), or “drone,” to collect aerial imagery and light detection and ranging (lidar) elevation data. The survey data will be used to monitor topographical information at the site with a high level of accuracy. Please see the map of the extent of the aerial survey enclosed with this letter for reference.

The sUAS will launch from, and land on, the disposal site. LM will perform the flight during daylight hours, preferably morning to midday, to provide optimal timing for data collection. The intent of this survey is to collect imagery of the disposal site only, and not include photos of individuals or adjacent properties.

LM has obtained all the necessary approvals to move forward, and this notification is for informational purposes only.

For any questions regarding the sUAS aerial survey, please contact the LM Aviation Program Manager Deborah Steckley at (720) 648-3799 or [Deborah.Steckley@lm.doe.gov](mailto:Deborah.Steckley@lm.doe.gov).

For general questions about the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site, please contact the LM Site Manager Nicole Keller at (970) 248-6793 or [Nicole.Keller@lm.doe.gov](mailto:Nicole.Keller@lm.doe.gov).

For additional information on the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site, please visit <https://www.energy.gov/lm/office-legacy-management>

Sincerely,

Nicole  
R. Keller

Digitally signed  
by Nicole R. Keller  
Date: 2022.06.16  
17:10:00 -06'00'

Nicole Keller  
Rifle Site Manager

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure via email:

Paul Kerl, DOE-LM

Deborah Steckley, DOE-LM

Michelle Franke, RSI

Kyler Lott, RSI

Angeline Roles, RSI

DOE Read File

File: E/20/2128 F/20/812

# Small Drone Use at the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site for Aerial Survey



What is an aerial survey?"

An aerial survey is the collection of information with aircraft. While ground-based surveyors generally carry equipment to take photos, measure elevations, or collect other information, aerial surveying involves using equipment on aircraft to survey. In this case DOE will be using a drone to survey.

What is a small drone?

A small drone, in this case, about the size of an office chair, is an aircraft flown by a person on the ground using a hand-held control box. This person is a drone pilot.

Why will the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) fly a small drone?

The drone has equipment that captures high-quality images. These images of the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site will help DOE ensure that the site stays in good condition.

Who will make sure it is safely flown?

The drone pilot and our safety expert. The pilot must follow federal rules to protect people and property on the ground.

Where will it be flown?

We will only fly over the DOE Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site, and surrounding area that is outlined in green on the map.

When will it be flown?

We plan to fly the drone the week of July 25, 2022.

How will your privacy be respected?

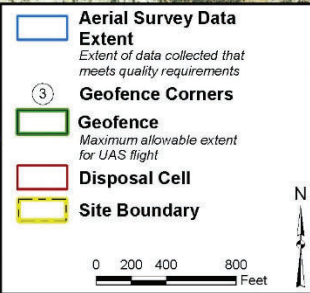
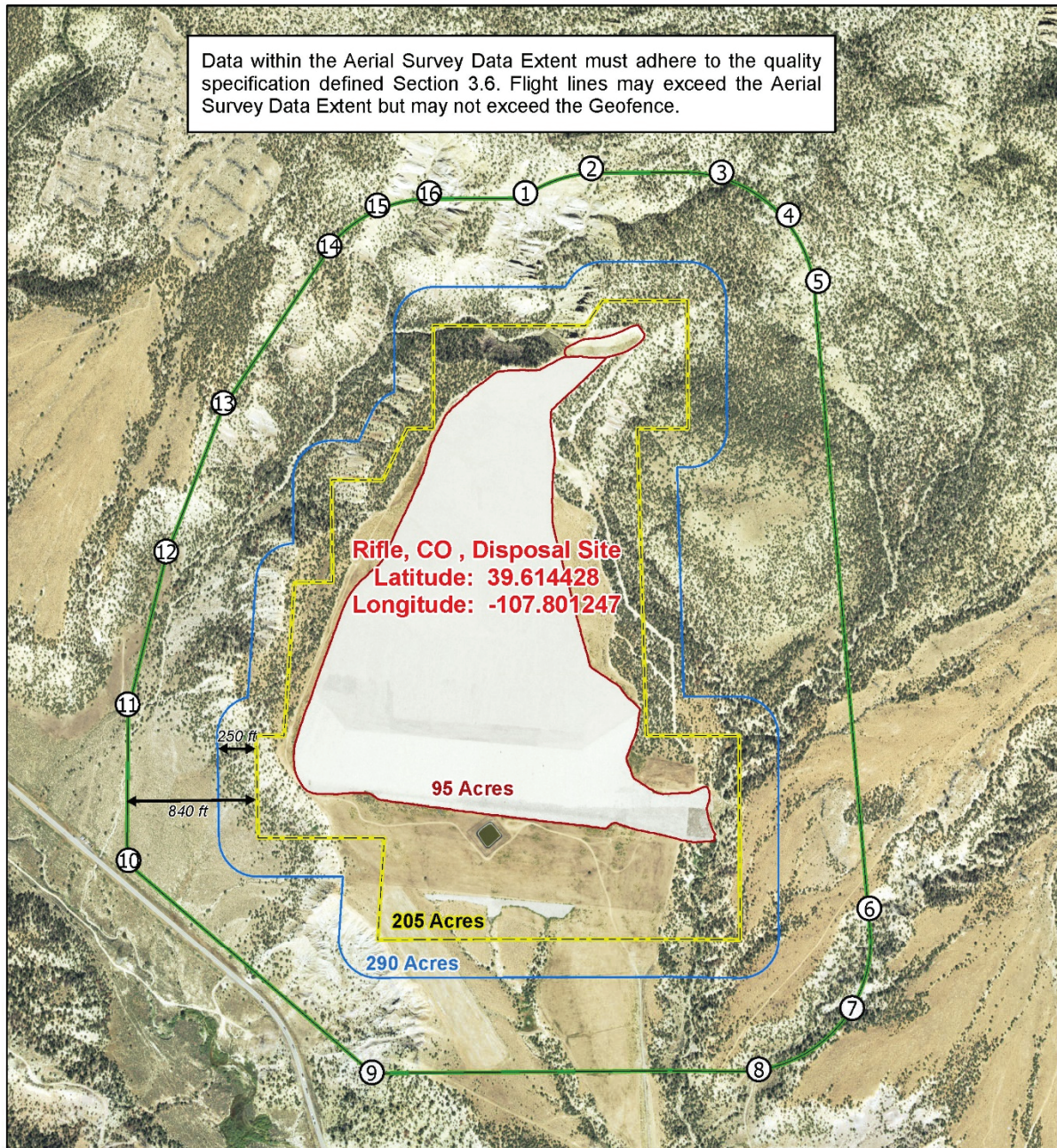
DOE has a very strict privacy rule that the drone pilot must follow. The pilot will collect imagery of the disposal site only, and not include photos of individuals or adjacent properties.

Who can you contact for more information?

Please contact the LM Aviation Manager Deborah Steckley @ (720) 648-3799, or [Deborah.Steckley@lm.doe.gov](mailto:Deborah.Steckley@lm.doe.gov) and ask about the Rifle, Colorado, Disposal Site aerial survey.



Data within the Aerial Survey Data Extent must adhere to the quality specification defined Section 3.6. Flight lines may exceed the Aerial Survey Data Extent but may not exceed the Geofence.



Garfield County	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT	Work Performed by <b>RSI EnTech, LLC</b> Under DOE Contract 89303020DL/M0000001
Aerial Survey Extent Rifle, CO, Disposal Site	
DATE PREPARED: May 11, 2022	FILE NAME: S3827102