Finding of No Significant Impact

Environmental Assessment

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes a strategy to achieve ground water compliance at the former uranium-processing site at Gunnison, Colorado. The proposed compliance strategy is natural flushing with institutional controls and continued monitoring. The purpose of the proposed compliance action is to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ground water standards that are defined in Title 40, Part 192, of the *U.S. Federal Code of Regulations* (40 CFR 192). Ground water at the Gunnison site is contaminated with residual radioactive material from historical activities associated with processing uranium ore.

The proposed strategy and the no-action alternative are described in the *Environmental Assessment of Ground Water Compliance at the Gunnison, Colorado, UMTRA Project Site* (See attached DOE/EA-1399). The Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the relevant environmental issues at the Gunnison site, which includes ground water, surface water, land use, human health, ecological resources, cumulative impacts, and environmental justice considerations.

The ground water compliance strategy was selected using the step-by-step approach in the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Ground Water Project* (PEIS) (DOE/EIS0198). The EA for Gunnison was tiered to the PEIS in a manner consistent with the concept of tiering described in 40 CFR §1508.28.

Finding

On the basis of the EA, which analyzes the relevant environmental issues and concerns of the stakeholders, DOE finds that no significant impact would result from implementing the proposed action of natural flushing with institutional controls and continued monitoring. This Finding of No Significant Impact is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, 40 CFR 1500; and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021. The proposed action does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the environment within the mandate of NEPA. Therefore, implementation of the proposed action does not require an Environmental Impact Statement.

Signed in Grand Junction, Colorado, this 13 day of August, 2002.

Donna Bergman-Tabbert

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For further information concerning this proposal, or to obtain copies of the Environmental Assessment, please contact:

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Copies of the Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact will be available at the following locations:

U.S. Department of Energy
Grand Junction Office
Public Reading Room
2597 B ¾ Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Ann Zugelder Public Library
307 N. Wisconsin Avenue
Gunnison, CO 81230

Leslie J. Savage Library
Western State College
600 North Adams
Gunnsion, CO 81231

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