



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Legacy  
Management

## **DOE Invites Public to Attend Public Scoping Meeting on Proposed Solar Energy Project Near Durango**

U.S. Department of Energy intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment, or EA, under the National Environmental Policy Act that will evaluate environmental impacts related to installing a photovoltaic solar electrical generation system of up to 4.5 megawatts at the Durango, Colo., Disposal Site. DOE will evaluate several alternatives in the EA, including the land on top of the disposal cell, areas adjacent to the cell, and a no-action alternative.

DOE invites community members to attend a public scoping meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2010, in the Extension Building at the La Plata County Fairgrounds located at 2500 Main Ave., Durango, Colo. The purpose of the meeting is to describe the proposed actions that will be evaluated in the EA; to provide an opportunity for the community to ask questions related to the proposed actions; and to obtain input on issues and concerns related to the proposed actions that are of local concern.

The Durango Disposal Site is located approximately 3.5 miles southwest of Durango, above the west end of Bodo Canyon. The 120-acre disposal site contains a 40-acre disposal cell containing uranium mill tailings and contaminated materials. Disposal cell construction was completed in 1991.

The DOE Office of Legacy Management is responsible for the long-term care of the Durango Disposal Site and conducts monitoring and maintenance operations as required by a Long-term Surveillance Plan. The site is regulated under a Nuclear Regulatory Commission general license.

If the result of the EA indicates that no significant impacts to the environment would result from installing a photovoltaic system, DOE intends to offer a portion of the site for lease to interested commercial interests, who would develop a solar energy generation system. DOE will not construct, operate, or maintain any resulting system.

Please contact Bob Darr, Public Affairs Specialist, by e-mail at [bob.darr@LM.doe.gov](mailto:bob.darr@LM.doe.gov), or call (720) 377-9672 if you have any questions concerning the scoping meeting. DOE anticipates releasing the Draft EA to the public in early August and publishing the final decision document in October.

For information on the EA and the Durango Disposal Site, visit the DOE Legacy Management website at <http://www.LM.doe.gov/Durango/Disposal/Sites.aspx>.