



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

DOE Invites the Public to Review and Comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for a Proposed Solar Energy Project near Durango

The U.S. Department of Energy invites the public to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment, or EA, to evaluate potential environmental impacts related to installing a photovoltaic solar electrical-generation system of approximately 4.5 megawatts or more at the Durango, Colorado, Disposal Site.

The *Photovoltaic Solar Project at the Durango, Colorado, Site* draft EA is available on the DOE Office of Legacy Management website at <http://www.LM.doe.gov/Durango/Disposal/EA/>.

Written comments on the draft EA will be accepted through Friday, September 17, 2010. Comments should be e-mailed to UMTRCAinfo@LM.doe.gov with the phrase "Durango Solar Project EA Comments" included in the subject line. Written comments may also be mailed to:

Durango Solar Project EA Comments
DOE Office of Legacy Management
11025 Dover St., Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

The draft EA was prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act and evaluates several alternatives, including a no-action alternative. Comments received during the comment period will be considered by DOE during the preparation of the final EA and decision document. Under NEPA, the final decision on an EA will be either a Finding of No Significant Impact, or FONSI, or a finding that a full Environmental Impact Statement is required before the project may proceed. DOE may also determine that the project will not proceed in the absence of a FONSI.

If the result of the final EA indicates that installing a photovoltaic system would not significantly impact the environment, DOE intends to offer a portion of the site for lease to interested commercial entities to develop a solar electrical-generation system. DOE will not construct or operate any resulting system but will continue to inspect and monitor the site to ensure that all requirements are met.

The Durango Disposal Site is approximately 3.5 miles southwest of Durango, above the west end of Bodo Canyon. The 120-acre disposal site contains a 42-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 site under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act and conducts monitoring and maintenance operations according to a Long-term Surveillance Plan that has been approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Agency.

Please e-mail Bob Darr, Public Affairs Specialist, at bob.darr@LM.doe.gov, or call (720) 377-9672, if you have any questions concerning the draft EA.

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