



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

DOE Completes Environmental Assessment and FONSI for a Proposed Solar Energy Project near Durango

The U.S. Department of Energy has completed a final environmental assessment (EA) that evaluated use of a portion of the Durango Disposal Site located in southwestern Colorado for installing a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy system. A copy of the final *Environmental Assessment, Photovoltaic Solar Project at the Durango, Colorado, Disposal Site* (DOE/EA-1770) and Finding of No Significant Impact is available on the DOE Office of Legacy Management website at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/Durango/Disposal/EA/>.

The draft EA evaluated several alternatives, including a no-action alternative. Maximum development of a PV solar energy system would encompass approximately 21 acres and would potentially generate 4.5 megawatts or more of electrical energy. The draft EA was released for agency and public review in August, 2010. The final EA incorporates information provided during the comment period.

The EA concluded that installing a PV system will not significantly impact the environment. DOE intends to award a 20-year lease with one 5-year option to a qualified lessee who will install, operate, and maintain a PV system and remove it at the end of the lease term. The lessee will be responsible for reclaiming all disturbed areas at the end of the lease and have full responsibility for operating all aspects of the system. DOE will retain oversight responsibilities.

DOE will solicit potential lessees in the near future by posting a request for proposals to the DOE Legacy Management website at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/Durango/Disposal/Sites.aspx>. DOE will also electronically distribute the proposal solicitation to those stakeholders who have provided contact information to DOE. If you wish to receive information on this solicitation, please send your e-mail contact information to DOE at UMTRCAinfo@lm.doe.gov with the phrase "Durango Solar Lease Information" in the subject line of your e-mail.

The Durango Disposal Site is approximately 3.5 miles southwest of Durango. 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 accepted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Please e-mail Bob Darr, Public Affairs Specialist, at bob.darr@lm.doe.gov, or call him at 720-377-9672, if you have any questions concerning the EA and FONSI.

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