

# **Finding of No Significant Impact**

## **Ground Water Compliance at the Grand Junction UMTRA Project Site (Climax Uranium Millsite)**

**September 1999**

**U.S. Department of Energy  
Grand Junction Office  
Grand Junction, Colorado**

## Finding of No Significant Impact

### Environmental Assessment

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes a strategy to achieve ground water compliance at the Grand Junction, Colorado, LJMTRA project site, formerly known as the Climax Uranium Millsite. The proposed compliance strategy is no remediation and the application of supplemental standards. This proposed action and a no-action alternative are described in the *Environmental Assessment of Ground Water Compliance at the Grand Junction UMTRA Project Site (Climax Uranium Millsite)* (see attached DOE/EAB 1312). The Environmental Assessment analyzes the relevant environmental issues at the Grand Junction site, which include ground water, surface water, water and land use, human health, ecological resources, cumulative impacts, and environmental justice considerations.

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 US. Code of *Federal Regulations* (40 CFR 192). Ground water at the Grand Junction UMTRA Project site is contaminated with residual radioactive material from historical activities associated with the processing of uranium ore. DOE is proposing no remediation and application of supplemental standards based on limited-use ground water.

The *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Uranium Tailings Remedial Action Ground Water Project* (DOE/EISB0198) presents a step-by-step approach for determining the appropriate compliance strategy. That approach was used to select the ground water compliance strategy for the Grand Junction UMTRA Project site. The Environmental Assessment was tiered to the PEIS in a manner consistent with the concept of tiering described in 40 CFR&sect; 1508.28.

### Finding

On the basis of the Environmental Assessment, which analyzes the relevant environmental issues and the concerns of stakeholders, DOE finds that no significant impact would result from implementing the proposed action of no remediation of ground water and application of supplemental standards. This Finding of No Significant Impact is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U. S. Code 34321 *et seq.*; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, 40 CFR 1500; and the DOE National Environmental Policy Act 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 Albuquerque, New Mexico, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1999.

R.E. Glass  
R.E. Glass, Manager

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 3/4 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Mesa County Public Library  
Government Documents Section  
530 Grand Ave.  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

John Tomlinson Library  
1200 College Place  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

For further information about the NT-PA process, please contact:

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