

FACT SHEET

Office of Communications Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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Energy Fuels Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill Radioactive Materials License Approval

- After nearly 14 months of in-depth review of the Energy Fuels Resources Corp. radioactive materials license application, the Radiation Program of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment approved the license application with conditions on Jan. 5, 2011.
- In addition to considering technical documents, the department considered hundreds of stakeholder comments submitted throughout the review process.
- The Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill will be the first conventional uranium mill in the United States in a generation.
- The site is located approximately 12 miles west of Naturita, Colo., in the Paradox Valley of southwestern Colorado.
- Because Colorado is an Agreement State with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has the sole authority to regulate uranium milling in the state. The Radiation Program is responsible for licensing possession of radioactive materials in Colorado under the Radiation Control Act.
- The department's 432-page Decision Analysis and Environmental Impact Analysis confirms that the application satisfies requirements to
 - o Assess radiological and nonradiological impacts to public health;
 - o Assess any impacts to waterways and ground water;
 - o Consider alternatives to activities to be conducted;
 - o Consider long-term impacts of the licensed activities.
- The document and a copy of the license are available online at: http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/rad/rml/energyfuels/index.htm. The Environmental Impact Analysis reviewed various potential social and economic impacts; geologic, hydrologic, radiological, chemical and other physical parameters; transportation impacts; and proposed offsets or mitigations to identified impacts. An in-depth review of specific issues and concerns raised by stakeholders and the department's responses can be found

beginning on page EIA — 144 of the Decision Analysis and Environmental Impact Analysis. Issues and concerns included the following

- Cumulative impacts of milling and mining, mill construction and other regional development
- o Dust control and possible windblown contamination
- o Fears that the mill would be used to process feedstock other than uranium ore
- o The impact of industry boom-and bust-cycles
- o The availability of process water for the mill
- o Potential impacts to wildlife
- The reliability of the impoundments and liners
- o Fears of a catastrophic emergency
- o Concerns that taxpayer funds would be used to decommission the mill
- Concerns that Energy Fuels Resources lacks the financial ability to build and operate the mill safely
- o Environmental justice issues
- o Radiation dangers
- Radioactive materials licenses for uranium milling typically are renewed on a five-year cycle and can be amended to reflect changes in operations or conditions. Significant amendments and renewal requires a prescribed public process.
- The applicant has 60 days to review this decision analysis (and license, if appropriate) and request a formal hearing on the license. If a hearing is not requested, the license becomes final. If requested, a hearing must be held before a hearing officer near the location of the facility in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, which includes specific legal processes such as formal party status, discovery, depositions, formal testimony, cross-examination, etc. The hearing officer provides his/her recommendation to the executive director of the department, and a final department decision is rendered. This decision can be appealed to District Court through an appellate process that uses the existing record to review the department's decision.