

Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division UMTRA (Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action) Program Issues Unloading and Decontamination Procedures at the Interim Storage Facility

Unloading

The Interim Storage Facility consists of an abandoned sewage treatment plant concrete structure 75 feet in diameter and surrounded by concrete walls approximately 10 feet high. The bottom is a concrete slab, sloping to the center for drainage. A slot has been cut through the walls wide enough to admit a dump truck. A concrete ramp provides access to the entrance. The entrance is protected by a lockable gate. All holes in the bottom were sealed to make a water tight storage area.

No unauthorized personnel will be allowed to enter the Interim Storage Facility unless they remain inside the truck. Authorized entrance requires training and exposure documentation.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will be responsible for access control, decontamination and exposure logging. In the absence of Department personnel, such as an emergency water main break, the City of Grand Junction may assume these duties for its own use of the Interim Storage Facility.

The hauling truck will back into the facility to place the load as close as possible to the back wall. Debris brought to the Interim Storage Facility must be sized as small as possible to allow for compaction at the Cheney site. No debris may exceed 3 feet cubed or 10 feet in length.

Decontamination

The truck bed will be inspected for visible uranium mill tailings contamination, soil and debris remaining after dumping. Material that did not dislodge will be pushed out with shovels or brooms. The truck will then proceed to the entrance for inspection of tires and undercarriage. The truck engine will be shut off, placed in gear and the wheels chocked. All visible contamination will be removed from the tires and undercarriage.

The facility also includes a shed for storage of decontamination materials, including brooms, shovels, a high pressure water sprayer (HOTSYS), and radiation detection instruments to verify decontamination. The City has provided a water line extension for decontamination spray or dust control.

The truck tires and tailgate will undergo frisking (survey with radiation detection instruments). If the tailgate or tires will not pass the frisking limits, the HOTSYS will be used to further decontaminate the vehicle. If material cannot be dislodged from the bed, it can also be sprayed out at this point. After washing, the tires and tailgate will again be frisked. All water or dislodged material will drain into the Interim Storage Facility. No uranium mill tailings contamination shall be allowed to escape the containment of the Interim Storage Facility.

Individuals that have had physical contact with the uranium mill tailings will have all visible contamination removed by sweeping. The individual will undergo a full body frisk with the frisking meter. If the frisking limits are exceeded, further sweeping or washing will occur, followed by another frisking. If clothing will not decontaminate visibly or pass the frisking survey, the clothing will be changed out with coveralls from the storage shed. Contaminated clothing can be later washed in a tub at the Interim Storage Facility until decontamination is verified by frisking.

When the load is dumped, decontamination complete, and log books filled out, the truck and users may leave the Interim Storage Facility access area. All materials used in decontamination will be returned to the shed. The gate and shed will be locked. The truck may then exit the site.