

December 2008 Update

## Uravan Uranium Superfund Site

Uravan, Colorado

(Five-Year Review Date: 9/28/05)

### *H*ighlights Since the 2005 Five-Year Review

- **Remediation of Club Ranch Ponds is complete. Revegetation occurred in December 2007.**
- **Remediation of Highway 141 is complete. Deletion of this portion of the site occurred on September 4, 2007.**
- **All construction at the site was completed on December 31, 2007.**
- **Final Close Out Report issued September 2008**

**Brief Site History:** The Uravan site is located 90 miles to the southwest of Grand Junction in the western portion of Montrose County on Highway 141. From the 1940s to 1984, the plant operated as a uranium and vanadium-processing facility. These operations resulted in large volumes of contamination in air, soil and groundwater near the plant and the San Miguel River. Contaminants included radioactive raffinates, raffinate crystals and mill tailings containing uranium and radium. Other contaminants in the tailings and groundwater were lead, arsenic, cadmium and vanadium. The site was listed on the NPL in 1986.

**Cleanup Activities Completed:** The 1987 Consent Decree identified Umetco Mineral Corporation as the responsible party for cleanup at the site. The remedy includes:

- Capping and revegetating approximately 10 million cubic yards of radioactive tailings.
- Disposing of 530,000 cubic yards of radioactive raffinate crystals.
- Eliminating process ponds
- Pumping and treating contaminated groundwater.
- Securing 12 million yards of tailing waste along the San Miguel River.
- Dismantling Two mills and placing all old building demolition materials in a secure area.
- Excavating and replanting areas containing contaminated soils. Disposing of contaminated soils in a secure area.
- Dismantling and cleaning the Town of Uravan.

**Current Status:** Umetco is currently conducting performance monitoring at the site. Wastes are being contained at the site, pollution of the San Miguel River is under control and there is no longer any residential exposure to radiation. It is anticipated that this site will be transferred to the Department of Energy's legacy management program upon construction completion and license termination. Once transferred to the Department of Energy, five-year reviews will no longer be required.

- All construction at the site was completed as of December 31, 2007.
- Remediation of Club Ranch Ponds is complete. Revegetation occurred in December of 2007.
- Historic structures have been demolished. Debris and underlying soils have been placed in the B-Plant repository for disposal.
- Remediation of Highway 141 is complete. Deletion of this portion of the site occurred on September 4, 2007.

**Summary of Protectiveness:** Remedial activities are being conducted in general compliance with the Consent Decree. Based on available information, the remedy appears to remain effective in protecting human health and the environment.

**Issues Impacting Protectiveness:** No issues were identified that affect the protectiveness of the remedy. For the status of all recommendations made, refer to the following summary table.

**Uravan Uranium Superfund Site  
Five-Year Review Update Table  
(Review Date: 9/28/05)**

Issues	Recommendations/ Follow-up Actions	Follow-up Actions (Status/Due Date)	Status of Follow- up Actions 12/08	Potentially Responsible Party
1) Time line schedule for implementation/ completion of RAP activities is not current.	Issue completion schedule acceptable to regulatory agencies, consistent with RAP requirements.	12/31/2005	Completed	Umetco Minerals Corp. and CDPHE
2) Presence of liquids in hillside collection sumps.	Engineering/technical assessment needed: closed/capped hillside collection system performance.	11/30/2005	Completed	Umetco Minerals Corp.
3) Portion of Club Mesa storm water management features show excessive erosion.	Provide systematic inspection and O&M plan for constructed and existing storm water management system component features.	11/30/2005	Addressed	Umetco Minerals Corp.
4) In-service Club Ranch Ponds have numerous liner failures.	Provide updated and revised inspection plan. Require the timely repair and/or decommissioning of subject evaporative CR Ponds.	0/31/2005	Done	Umetco Minerals Corp.
5) Inspection, sampling of wind-blown areas north and south of Uravan Site indicate the presence of airborne dispersed radioactive materials.	Provide for a wind-blown area-averaging assessment plan and implementation schedule that evaluates public health and environmental risk.	12/31/2005	Completed Sampling and technical report complete 9/01/06; shows no risk. Land is available for unrestricted use.	Umetco Minerals Corp. and CDPHE
6) Timely management of stored PCB's	Verify proper transport, management and disposal of PCB's.	10/31/2005	Completed Authorized PCB disposal into repository B— work complete.	Umetco Minerals Corp.

Issues	Recommendations/ Follow-up Actions	Follow-up Actions (Status/Due Date)	Status of Follow- up Actions 12/08	Potentially Responsible Party
7) Radioactive Fill Beneath Colorado Highway 141	Coordinate with the State of Colorado Department of Transportation for the timely removal and mitigation of Colorado Highway 141 radioactive materials, which is consistent with the Remedial Action Plan.	12/31/2005	Completed  Colorado DOT is undertaking removal and disposal of radioactive materials under Highway 141. Construction Complete	Colorado DOT, CDPHE and Umetco Minerals Corp.
8) Land use management of Montrose County Roads Y-11 and E-22 is not consistent with requirements of the RAP and Consent Decree.	Provide formalized institutional control document with Montrose County that will ensure timely and proper land use control for future use, repair and maintenance of County Roads Y-11 and E-22.	08/31/2008	Will be addressed under Department of Energy's Legacy Management Program when ownership of the Site is transferred to the Federal government. Date uncertain.	Federal Agencies, Montrose County, Umetco Minerals Corp.