

2011 Annual Inspection Report for the Grand Junction, Colorado, Site

Summary

The Grand Junction, Colorado, Site, inspected on February 15, 2011, was in excellent condition. Physical and institutional controls enacted at the site continue to be effective in preventing exposure to contamination remaining on the property. No cause for a follow-up inspection was identified.

1.0 Introduction

This report presents the results of the annual U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) inspection of the Grand Junction, Colorado, Site. R. Johnson (Inspector) of S.M. Stoller Corporation, the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) contractor at Grand Junction, Colorado, conducted the inspection on February 15, 2011. M. Cosby of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment attended the inspection. The inspection was conducted in accordance with the *Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance [LTS&M] Plan for the Grand Junction, Colorado, Site* (June 2006).

The site was contaminated during uranium milling and uranium oxide procurement activities conducted by the federal government between 1943 and 1974. DOE remediated the property between 1986 and 2001. Remediation consisted of decontaminating or demolishing contaminated buildings and removing contaminated soil. Contaminated materials were disposed of at the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title I Grand Junction Disposal Site located south of Grand Junction, Colorado. Some contaminated materials were left in place until they can be remediated efficiently under a state-approved covenant for deferred remediation.

DOE transferred approximately 8 acres of the site in 2001 to the U.S. Department of the Army (occupied by an engineering unit of the U.S. Army Reserve). The remainder of the facility was transferred to nonfederal ownership (Riverview Technology Corporation) in 2001, following approval of the covenant for deferred remediation. Several buildings are leased by DOE from the Riverview Technology Corporation to conduct ongoing DOE operations.

DOE remains responsible for ensuring that contamination left on its former property is controlled to prevent exposure to the public and the environment. Contamination remains in three occurrences:

- In a buried concrete slab and underlying soil beneath the south portion of Building 12 (known as Building 12A).
- In groundwater and surface water within the site perimeter.
- As radium foil sealed below ground in a decommissioned calibration borehole.

The site transfer agreement between DOE and the Riverview Technology Corporation stipulates that contamination beneath Building 12A (site computer facility) and Building 20 (analytical chemistry laboratory) will be remediated when DOE vacates those buildings and they are

demolished. DOE continues to use Building 12A as a computer and storage facility. DOE concluded operations in the laboratory in December 2003, and demolition of the building and remediation of underlying contaminated materials occurred in 2006. The groundwater and surface water is being passively remediated by the process of natural flushing of the alluvial aquifer. DOE will provide stewardship oversight of the decommissioned calibration borehole in perpetuity.

The purposes of the annual inspection are to confirm the integrity of visible features at the site, to identify changes in conditions that may affect site protectiveness, and to determine the need, if any, for maintenance, additional inspections, or monitoring.

2.0 Institutional Controls

Institutional controls at the site consist of warning signs around the surface water locations (North Pond, South Pond, and wetlands) to prevent use, an information/warning plaque over the decommissioned borehole containing radium foil, locks on the groundwater monitoring wells, and deed restrictions that prohibit unauthorized excavations that could expose contaminated groundwater under the former DOE facility or materials under Building 12A. Verification of these institutional controls is part of the annual inspection, and the results are included in this report.

3.0 Inspection Results

The annual inspection addresses only those portions of the site that must be monitored and maintained to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment. Those portions are related to contaminated media that remain at the site. Features discussed in this report are shown on the attached drawing. Photographs to support specific observations are identified in the text and on the drawing by photograph location (PL) numbers.

3.1 Specific Site Surveillance Features

Monument—A U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey monument near the former north gate to the site establishes elevation control for the site. This monument was in excellent condition.

Monitoring Wells—DOE owns eight monitoring wells on the property to monitor the progress of natural flushing of contaminants from the alluvial aquifer. Currently, seven of the wells are sampled annually. Several of the wells are flush mounted and protected with standard monitoring well metal caps or manhole covers. A new above-ground metal well protector was installed at well GJ01-01 since the last inspection (PL-1). Visible portions of all wells were in good condition. The lock on well 6-2N appeared closed but pulled open when tested; the lock was subsequently lubricated to ensure that it would latch properly.

Warning Signs—Fifteen warning signs installed on galvanized steel posts are positioned around the surface water areas so the warning will be visible to a person approaching from any direction of reasonable access. All signs were undamaged and legible (PL-2).

Radium Foil Borehole—DOE installed a 300-foot-deep cased borehole in the 1980s to calibrate depth measurement systems on borehole geophysical logging trucks. Two strips of radium-226

foil were placed around the casing at depths of 81 feet (29 picocuries per gram) and 181 feet (3 picocuries per gram). During calibration, the instruments in the trucks would detect the gamma signal from the radium.

The borehole was decommissioned in place in 2000. DOE perforated the casing above and below each strip of foil and pressure-grouted the annulus with Portland cement to seal the foil in place. The borehole was filled with grout, and a metal plaque was mounted in concrete at ground level over the well. The metal plaque with the borehole information and warning engraved into the metal was in excellent condition (PL-3).

3.2 Transects

To ensure a thorough and efficient inspection, the site is divided into two areas referred to as transects: (1) the area within the former DOE property boundary that is addressed in the LTS&M Plan; and (2) the outlying area.

Specific site surveillance features were observed within each transect, such as survey markers, warning signs, and monitoring wells. Each transect was inspected for evidence of erosion, excavation, vandalism, or other phenomenon that might indicate a loss of institutional control or diminished protectiveness.

Interior Portions of the Site—This transect includes the portion of Building 12A where contamination remains beneath the building, the surface water areas, and other site surveillance features within the former DOE property boundary.

The interior floor area of Building 12A was inspected. There was no visual evidence of floor penetrations in the affected area since the last inspection. Exterior areas adjacent to the contaminated media under the building were not disturbed (PL-4 and PL-5). A new access ramp was added to the south end of Building 12A since the last inspection (PL-6); excavation of soils adjacent to the building was not required for construction of the ramp. The current site owner controls maintenance activities in the exterior areas near the contaminated soil, and DOE contractor personnel observe these exterior areas during normal working activities.

Most of the site surveillance features and surface water features are in areas not easily accessible by the public due to fencing. There were no signs of activity, development, or land use change (e.g., well installations or excavations that could expose groundwater) on the site that might degrade protectiveness.

Outlying Area—A private residence has been established on the adjacent property east of the site. There is no alluvial groundwater development at the residence and there were no signs of activity, development, or land use change in other areas adjacent to the site that might expose contaminated groundwater or impact the natural flushing of the aquifer.

4.0 Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

In accordance with the Record of Decision for the site, the contaminated groundwater is being remediated through natural flushing of the alluvial aquifer. This passive remediation is expected to be complete in 50 to 80 years following completion of remediation of contaminated soils (except for the contamination that was left under Buildings 12 and 20, site remediation was completed in 2001). Sampling of the groundwater at the site monitoring wells and of the surface water at North Pond, South Pond, the wetlands areas (PL-2 and PL-7), and the Gunnison River occurs annually, usually in February. Monitoring results are included in an annual data validation report.

5.0 Recommendations

The lock at monitoring well 6-2N was lubricated after the inspection. No other maintenance items were identified during the inspection.

6.0 Photographs

Photograph Location Number	Azimuth	Photograph Description
PL-1	45	New well protector at monitoring well GJ01-01.
PL-2	180	Warning sign S14 and the north wetlands area.
PL-3	90	Plaque at the decommissioned borehole containing radium foil.
PL-4	340	East side of Building 12A.
PL-5	10	West side of Building 12A.
PL-6	10	New access ramp at the south end of Building 12A.
PL-7	70	Wetlands area north of South Pond.



GJO 2/2011. PL-1. New well protector at monitoring well GJ01-01.



GJO 2/2011. PL-2. Warning sign S14 and the north wetlands area.



GJO 2/2011. PL-3. Plaque at the decommissioned borehole containing radium foil.



GJO 2/2011. PL-4. East side of Building 12A.



GJO 2/2011. PL-5. West side of Building 12A.



GJO 2/2011. PL-6. New access ramp at the south end of Building 12A.



GJO 2/2011. PL-7. Wetlands area north of South Pond.

