



# Monticello, Utah, Superfund Project Begins Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance of Established Remedies

## FACT SHEET

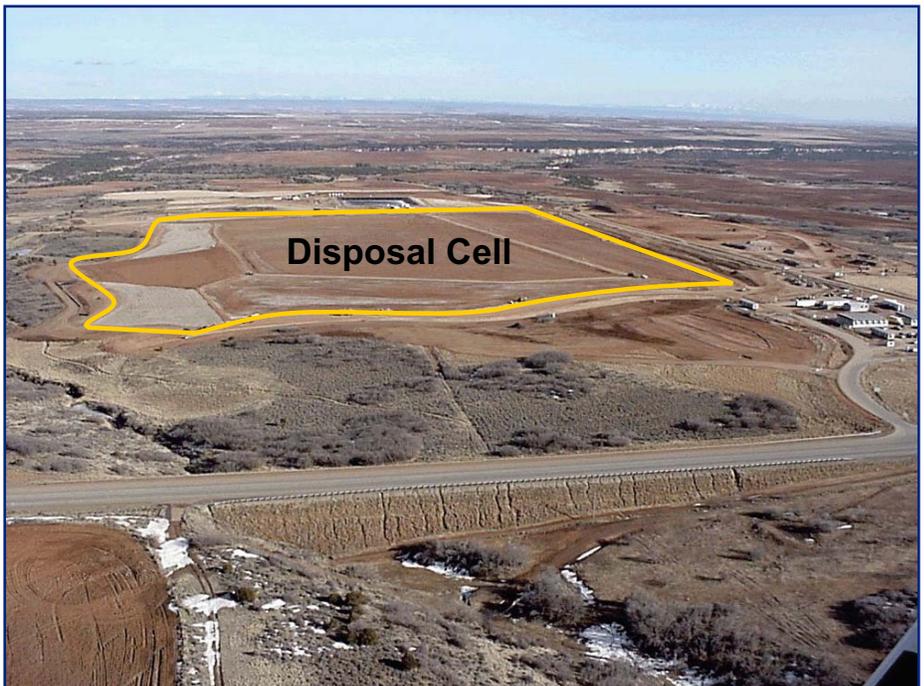
*The Monticello Project, except for the final selection of the remedy for surface water and groundwater at the former millsite at Monticello, Utah, was transferred to the U.S. Department of Energy Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Program for maintenance of the final remedies on October 1, 2001.*

In 1989, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters established the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance (LTSM) Program at the DOE Grand Junction Office (GJO) to provide stewardship to sites that contain low-level radioactive materials and have no ongoing mission. The LTSM Program is tasked with ensuring compliance with applicable regulations, licenses, and agreements and ensuring that disposal sites remain protective of human health and the environment. The LTSM Program is currently responsible for 29 sites around the nation.

With completion of surface remediation and closure of the Monticello, Utah, Disposal Cell, the Monticello Project entered the DOE-GJO LTSM Program on October 1, 2001. The DOE-GJO LTSM Program conducts monitoring activities related to the on-site disposal cell and to supplemental standards properties where contamination was left in place. LTSM Program activities for the Monticello Surface Water and Ground Water Project will be identified after a final remedy has been selected.

Operation of the mill at Monticello from 1942 until the early 1960s generated approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of low-level radioactive waste from processing uranium and vanadium ores. Contaminated materials from mill processing activities were distributed by wind and water and limited amounts were used for construction, resulting in contamination of more than 400 vicinity properties.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed the Monticello Vicinity Properties Project on the National Priorities List in 1986 and added the adjacent Monticello Mill Tailings Site in 1989. DOE entered into



*The Monticello, Utah, Disposal Cell contains 2.5 million cubic yards of contaminated soils removed from the former millsite, vicinity properties, and peripheral properties.*

an agreement with EPA and the State of Utah to clean up the tailings and tailings-contaminated material under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Cleanup of the tailings minimizes risks to the public and the environment from exposure to these mill tailings and the radon gas they produce.

EPA deleted the Monticello Vicinity Properties Project from the National Priorities List on February 28, 2000, following verification of the remediation. Contaminated materials from the vicinity properties and the former millsite were deposited in a disposal cell south of the former millsite. Disposal cell cover materials were placed in 1999, and the cover was seeded in 2000.

As part of the CERCLA process, DOE chose a remedy



*Construction of the Monticello Disposal Cell was completed May 30, 2000; the monument placed on the top of the disposal cell describes the contents of the cell.*

that includes monitoring the sites, with oversight provided by EPA and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, to ensure compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate regulations and to ensure that completed remedial actions maintain protection of human health and the environment. To perform these tasks, DOE has hired contractors to serve as a visible presence at Monticello. They are contracted to perform many of the necessary LTSM activities specific to Monticello, which include

- Monitoring the leachate collection system of the disposal cell to ensure the integrity of the liner.
- Monitoring the vegetative cover of the disposal cell for erosion and settlement and evaluating the success of the vegetation.
- Maintaining pumps and other mechanical systems, telemetry, fences, and storm water controls.
- Receiving and responding to public inquiries.
- Providing support for any work pertaining to city streets and utilities, such as surveying excavation spoils for contaminated soils, isolating the contaminated material, and furnishing a temporary storage facility for contaminated material until it can be transported to the Grand Junction, Colorado, (Cheney) Disposal Cell.

- Providing oversight to supplemental standards properties that includes surveillance for erosion or disturbance of soils and checking for unauthorized construction.
- Providing oversight of any construction work performed by the Utah Department of Transportation on certain portions of Highway 191 because of the supplemental standards applied to steep embankments, surveying spoils for contamination, and furnishing temporary storage for contaminated material until it can be transported to the Grand Junction (Cheney) Disposal Cell.
- Conducting radiological surveys to support construction of habitable structures on private supplemental standards properties.

The LTSM Program is responsible for conducting a review of the Monticello site every 5 years to ensure that the completed remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. These 5-year reviews, which are required by CERCLA Section 120 (c), include input from the community. The CERCLA 5-year review consists of public notification that the review is being conducted, a physical inspection of the site, reviews of data, interviews with local government officials and citizens, and preparation of a report that presents summaries of findings and recommendations. The most recent 5-year review report was completed in June 2002.

## Contacts

Documents related to the Monticello Disposal and Processing Sites are available on the DOE Office of Legacy Management website at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/monticello/Sites.aspx>.

For more information about DOE Office of Legacy Management activities at the Monticello Sites, contact

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