



Salt Lake City, Utah, Disposal Site

FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides information about the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 Title I disposal site at Salt Lake City, Utah. This site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.

Site Description and History

The Salt Lake Disposal Site is located approximately 81 miles west of Salt Lake City and 2.5 miles south of Interstate 80 on the eastern edge of the Great Salt Lake Desert. The disposal cell is adjacent to Energy Solutions, Inc., a commercial low-level radioactive materials disposal site. The surrounding area is sparsely populated, and the nearest residences are at least 15 miles from the site. Vegetation in the area is sparse and typical of semiarid low shrubland.

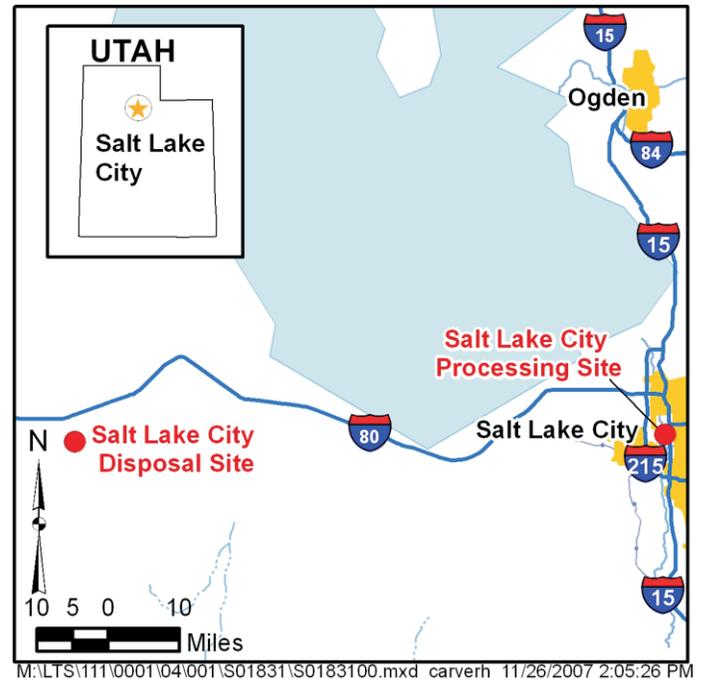
The disposal cell encapsulates about 2.8 million cubic yards of radioactive tailings and other contaminated materials removed from the Salt Lake City Processing Site and vicinity properties in the Salt Lake City area. Contaminated material in the cell has a total activity of 1,550 curies of radium-226.

Regulatory Setting

Congress passed the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) in 1978 (Public Law 95-604), which required the cleanup of 22 inactive uranium-ore processing sites. DOE remediated these sites under the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project in accordance with standards promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Title 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 192. The radioactive materials were encapsulated in U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)-approved disposal cells. The NRC general license for UMTRCA Title I sites is established in 10 CFR 40.27. The Salt Lake City Disposal Site was included under the general license in 1997.

Compliance Strategy

Groundwater monitoring is not required at the Salt Lake City Disposal Site because the tailings are stabilized in the disposal cell and are not contributing to contamination of any currently or potentially useful aquifer. In accordance with 40 CFR 192.21 (g), groundwater at the site meets the criteria for applying narrative supplemental standards because the concentration of total dissolved solids is in excess of 10,000 milligrams per liter, and, therefore, groundwater in the uppermost



Location of the Salt Lake City Disposal Site

aquifer beneath the disposal site qualifies as "limited use" according to the definition at 40 CFR 192.11 (e)(1).

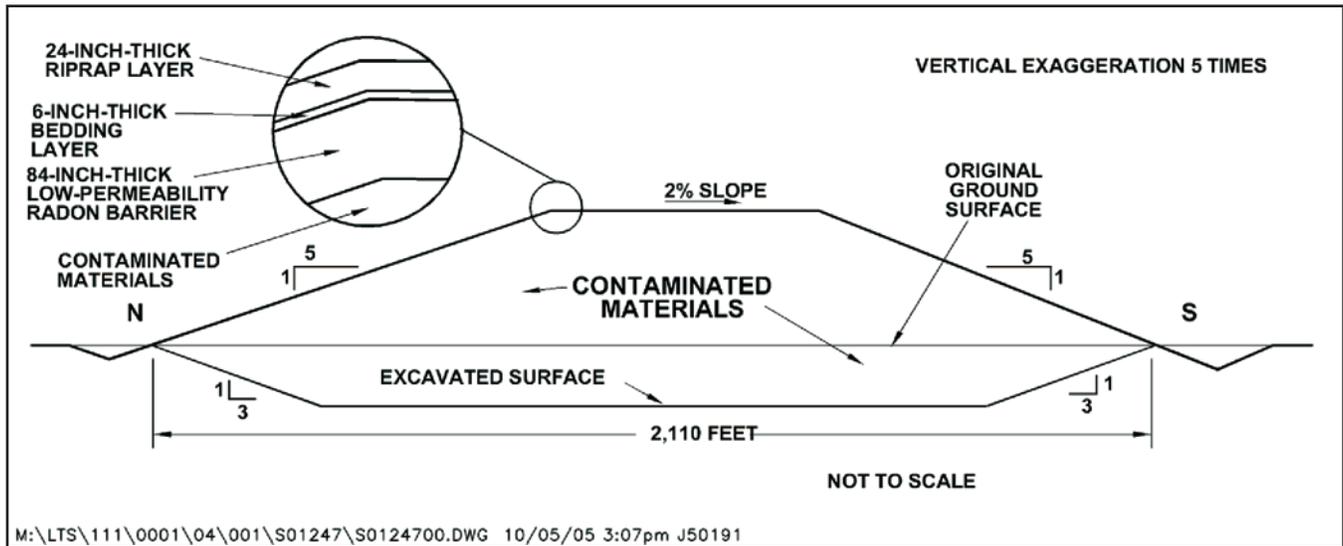
Institutional Controls

Institutional controls at the disposal site consist of federal ownership of the property, a site perimeter fence, warning/no trespassing signs placed along the perimeter fence, and a locked gate at the entrance to the site.

Disposal Cell Design

The rectangular disposal cell measures approximately 1,115 feet by 2,110 feet and occupies 54 acres of the 99-acre site. The unlined cell extends approximately 9 feet below ground surface and rises 35 feet above the surrounding terrain. A security fence with a locked gate encloses the site.

The cover of the disposal cell is a multicomponent system designed to encapsulate and protect the contaminated materials. The cover comprises (1) a



North-South Cross Section of the Salt Lake City Disposal Cell

low-permeability radon barrier (first layer placed over compacted tailings) consisting of a densely compacted silty clay, (2) a sandy bedding layer placed as a capillary break, and (3) a rock (riprap) erosion protection layer. The sloped disposal cell cover promotes rapid runoff of precipitation to minimize leachate. Riprap-armored drainage ditches around the base of the disposal cell intercept runoff and direct the flow into the natural drainages west of the site.

Legacy Management Activities

DOE manages the disposal site according to a site-specific Long-Term Surveillance Plan to ensure that the disposal cell continues to perform according to design specifications. Under provisions of this plan, DOE conducts annual inspections of the site to evaluate the condition of surface features and performs site maintenance as necessary. The encapsulated materials will remain potentially hazardous for thousands of years.

In accordance with 40 CFR 192.32, the disposal cell is designed to be effective for 1,000 years, to the extent reasonably achievable and, in any case, for at least 200 years. However, the general license has no expiration date, and DOE's responsibility for the safety and integrity of the Salt Lake City Disposal Site will last indefinitely.

Contacts

Documents related to the Salt Lake City Disposal Site are available on the DOE Office of Legacy Management website at http://www.LM.doe.gov/land/sites/ut/slc/slcd/slc_d.htm.

For more information about DOE Legacy Management activities at the Salt Lake City Disposal Site, contact

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