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FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

ELIMINATION REPORT  
FOR  
COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES  
GOLDEN, COLORADO

Department of Energy  
Office of Nuclear Energy  
Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology  
Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects

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ELIMINATION REPORT  
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GOLDEN, COLORADO

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy, Office of Terminal Waste Disposal and Remedial Action, Division of Remedial Action Projects (and/or predecessor agencies, offices and divisions), has reviewed the past activities of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado, and results of a radiological screening survey at the site. DOE has determined that the facilities used by AEC-related activities were subsequently utilized under a state license for research using uranium. It was determined that the residual radioactivity due to AEC work would be indistinguishable from radioactivity resulting from state-licensed operations over which DOE has no authority. Therefore, the facilities used by AEC require no remedial action as part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and will not be included in the program.

This elimination report will be archived by DOE through the Assistant Secretary for Management and Administration. A copy of this package will be available for public review between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), at the DOE Public Document Room located in Room 1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND

Site Function

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) entered into two contracts with the Colorado School of Mines. One contract, AT(49-6)-916, involved physical concentration and pilot plant testing of various uranium ores. Another AT(05-1)-462, involved the preparation of a book on

uranium ore processing. After the termination of AEC-sponsored activities, work with uranium ores continued under a State of Colorado license.

### Site Description

The site (see attached figure) is located off-campus and consisted of a large wooden building and a tailings pond. The front portion of the building contained offices and was a two-story structure. The remaining part of the building was a high one-story structure containing laboratories.

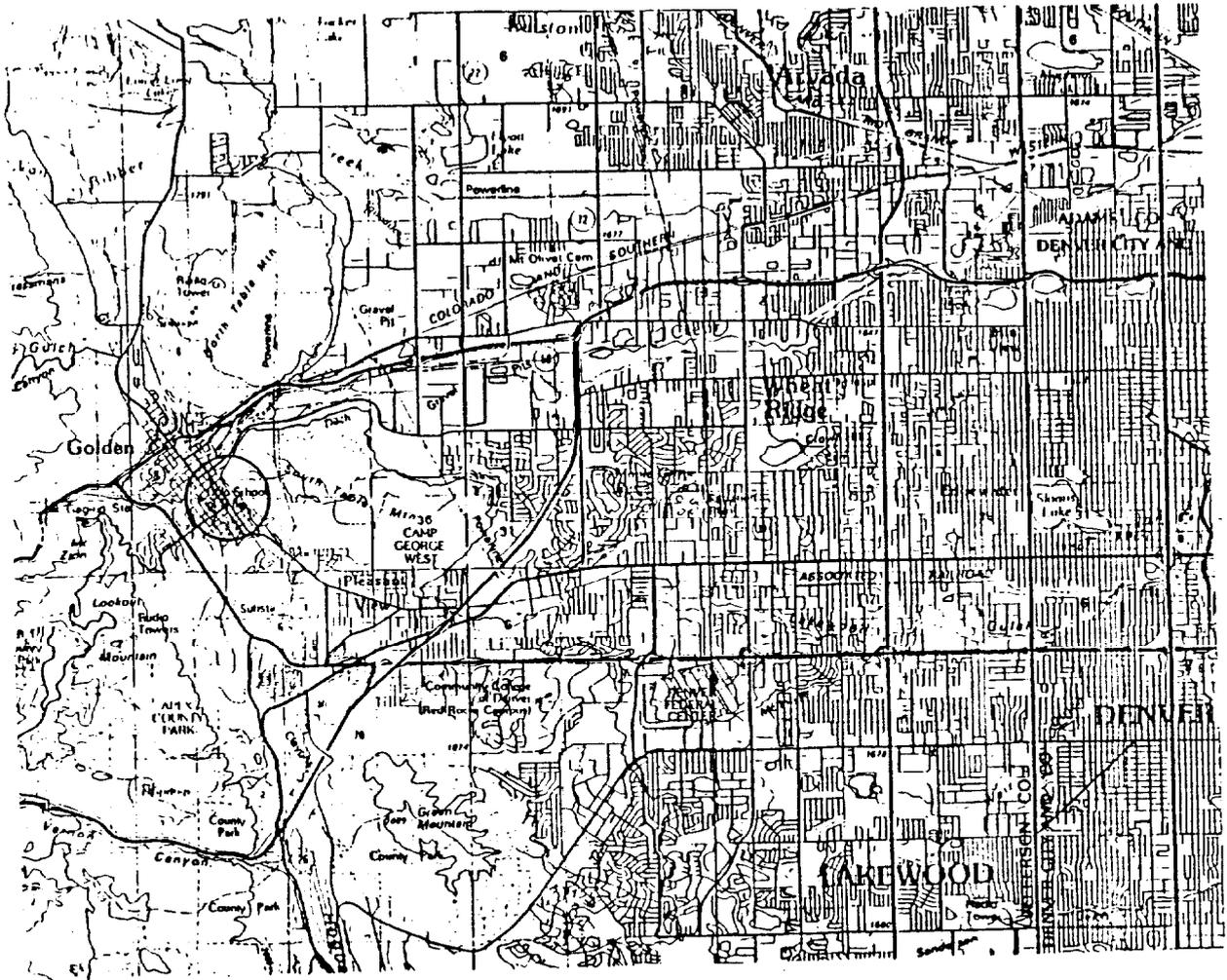
The Colorado School of Mines Research Institute is the current owner of the facility. During the contract period (the 1950's), the Institute was referred to as the Colorado School of Mines Research Foundation, Inc.

### Radiological History and Status

A screening survey was performed by DOE Chicago Operations Office and Argonne National Laboratory personnel on December 7, 1977. The facility was operating under a State license for research using uranium and was being monitored by the organization's radiation protection officer. Although some measurable levels of radiation were noted, no action was recommended. Any residual radioactivity due to AEC work was indistinguishable from activity resulting from subsequent state-licensed operations.

### **ELIMINATION ANALYSIS**

Based on a review of historical records and radiological survey results, DOE determined that no remedial action is warranted at the Colorado School of Mines site under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. This determination is based upon the



Location of the Colorado School of Mines  
in Golden, Colorado

December 7, 1977, screening survey which did find measurable levels of radioactivity in one area of the facility (high bay area) imbedded in the concrete surface, but also determined that there was no way to determine whether the contamination was the result of past AEC-related activities or due to later state-licensed operations. Because the facility was still operating under a state license for active research using uranium and was being monitored by the organization's Radiation Protection Officer, the site has been eliminated from consideration for inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

#### REFERENCES

- R.H. Bauer (Chicago Operations Office) to James L. Liverman (DOE Headquarters), "Colorado School of Mines," December 23, 1977.