



NEWS

**For Immediate Release
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Grand Junction Disposal Cell Reopens

(Grand Junction, CO) — On April 15, 2002, the Grand Junction Disposal Cell opened to receive residual radioactive material from the interim repository operated by the City of Grand Junction, as well as some mill tailings from street repairs being performed in Monticello, Utah.

The cell, located 18 miles south of Grand Junction, was built to safely contain the uranium mill tailings and other residual radioactive materials removed during the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project cleanup of the Climax Mill processing site and 4,085 private properties where tailings were used in local construction between 1951 and 1966. All materials removed by the UMTRA Project and during the cleanup of the U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office (DOE-GJO) site were placed in the cell by September 1998.

Since 1998, the State of Colorado has managed any remediation activities associated with the UMTRA Project and coordinates the removal and storage of additional radioactive material. The disposal cell is opened annually on an as-needed basis. The cell will remain open until at least mid-May.

MACTEC-ERS operates the disposal cell under contract to DOE-GJO and provides weekly security checks and environmental monitoring throughout the year. Questions pertaining to the remediation of mill tailings should be directed to Paul Oliver, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

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