



Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Program U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office



U.S. Department of Energy
Grand Junction Office

FACT SHEET

The Grand Junction Office has provided cost-effective and efficient stewardship since 1988

Overview

Many of the missions conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have resulted in low-level radioactive materials contamination at the affected sites. Other sites have low-level radioactive waste remaining from civilian nuclear industry activities. All of these sites were remediated under different environmental restoration programs; each program specified a unique set of regulations and standards. At all sites, low-level radioactive materials were either addressed by institutional controls and left in place (where the contaminated materials posed no threat to public or environmental health) or isolated in permanent storage. DOE will maintain custody of these locations and will provide long-term monitoring and maintenance to protect public health and safety and the environment. Responsibilities for these sites are collectively referred to as stewardship.

DOE created the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance (LTSM) Program in 1988 to provide long-term care for low-level radioactive material sites. Effective January 1, 1989, the DOE Grand Junction Office (GJO) was designated as the program office for "disposal site long-term surveillance and maintenance."

Charter

DOE assumes long-term custody of closed low-level radioactive waste disposal sites. It is the intent of DOE to assign all long-term stewardship responsibilities for sites that meet two criteria to the LTSM Program: (1) the site is not physically a part of a major DOE facility and (2) the site does not have a DOE mission after cleanup. Assignment of site responsibility to the LTSM Program ensures cost minimization and uniform compliance with applicable regulations, licenses, and agreements.

Currently, the program is responsible for annual surveillance, monitoring, and maintenance of 32 sites assigned to DOE under Title I and Title II of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA), the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) Section 151, the Defense Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Program, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). By 2006, more than 60 sites from various remediation programs will be assigned to the LTSM Program at DOE-GJO for stewardship.

Responsibilities of the Long-Term Steward

DOE has put much thoughtful work into defining the role of steward. The primary function of stewardship is to ensure protection of human health and the environment until the managed waste materials are no longer hazardous. LTSM Program responsibilities as the long-term custodian or steward consist of four major elements:

- **Site Monitoring, Maintenance, and Reporting**—Site monitoring includes periodic inspections to verify that engineered structures and barriers constructed to isolate hazards from the environment are intact. Maintenance activities could consist of repair of structures, replacement of signs and markers, and routine maintenance of security features such as fencing. All site stewardship activities must be documented for the archives.
- **Institutional Controls**—Institutional controls include zoning restrictions, use permits, well-drilling restrictions, and other restrictions administered under government authority to limit exposure to a contaminated medium. Institutional controls that can be imposed by the property owner (typically DOE) include deed restrictions, easements, and restrictive covenants that are based on state property law.
- **Information and Records Management**—Information and records management consists of storing, preserving, and providing access to background and design information and to activity reports for long-term stewardship sites. This information is available for use by the site steward, the general public, and other stakeholders and must be maintained for the use of future generations long after the initial custodians are gone.
- **Environmental Monitoring**—Environmental monitoring is conducted to verify continued remedy performance and to provide an early indication of any problems that develop. Environmental monitoring can include air monitoring, surface water and groundwater monitoring, vegetation monitoring, soil and sediment sampling and monitoring, and wildlife assessments.

Summary of Sites in LTSM Program Custody (January 2003)

Program/Site	Calendar Year				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
UMTRCA Title I Disposal and Processing Sites	21	26	31	31	31
UMTRCA Title II Disposal Sites	3	6	13	17	20
NWPA Section 151(c) Site	1	1	1	1	1
D&D Sites ^a	4	5	5	5	5
CERCLA Sites ^b	1	2	2	2	5
Formerly Utilized Sites					
Remedial Action Project Sites ^c	2	2	4	5	7
Total	32	42	56	61	69

^aIncludes Boiling Nuclear Superheating decommissioned research reactor.
^bTwo discrete CERCLA sites at Monticello, Utah, are counted as a single site for program planning purposes.
^cIn the 2001 *A Report to Congress on Long-Term Stewardship*, DOE estimated that the 21 FUSRAP sites being remediated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will require long-term care. The 25 FUSRAP sites where DOE completed remediation were not identified as requiring long-term stewardship. The LTSM Program will have a records management responsibility for all 46 sites.

LTSM Program Activities

The LTSM Program conducts site surveillance and monitoring activities in accordance with approved site-specific plans. LTSM Program personnel inspect each assigned site at least annually. They prepare, distribute, and archive an annual site condition report. The purpose of the annual inspection is to confirm the integrity of visible features at the site, to identify changes or new conditions that may affect site integrity, and to determine the need, if any, for maintenance, follow-up inspections, or monitoring.

Disposal impoundments were designed to require only minimal maintenance for the duration of their design lives. Because these disposal cells are relatively new, only minor maintenance is required at present. However, as the sites age, they will require routine replacement of wear items such as fencing and signs. LTSM Program activities also include groundwater monitoring and other environmental monitoring activities, monitoring of institutional controls, and records management, as stipulated in the site-specific surveillance and monitoring plans.

If a disposal site receives severe damage or sustains catastrophic failure, DOE will undertake the necessary corrective action. The LTSM Program maintains contacts with local law enforcement officials at each site who will notify DOE in case of an incident or emergency. Signs with the DOE-GJO 24-hour phone number (970-248-6070) are maintained at each site.

The regulatory drivers and the relationship between DOE offices, the LTSM Program, and other stakeholders varies according to the program under which the site was remediated. This information is provided in fact sheets with descriptions of remedial action programs.

Contacts

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