

CSMRI SITE PROJECT SUMMARY

November 2010

CURRENT SITE WORK

- The Colorado School of Mines (“School”) is conducting investigation work at the Colorado School of Mines Research Institute site (“Site”) to determine the source, nature and extent of contamination that is resulting in elevated levels of uranium in ground water at the Site.
- The work is focused on an area adjacent to Clear Creek that had been previously remediated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The investigation work identified and excavated soil that contained contaminants above the established Site standards for lead, arsenic, and uranium. In some cases soil was excavated down to the bedrock to ensure contaminant identification and excavation.
- Excavated soil has been placed into a lined and bermed stockpile on the upper terrace of the Site outside the main banks of Clear Creek. The stockpile will be evaluated to determine the volume and contaminant concentrations. This will allow the development of remedial alternatives. The selection of an alternative will be guided by factors established in regulations, such as protectiveness, compliance with cleanup standards, effectiveness, implementability, cost, public acceptance, and other factors.
- Excavated areas have been backfilled with tested, uncontaminated soil similar in composition to that excavated. In areas expected to be below the high water level for creek-influenced ground water the fill is a rock and soil mix from a local quarry. Clean topsoil from the School’s campus is being used above the rock and soil mix.
- As of November 3, 2010 approximately 1,200 cubic yards of contaminated soil has been placed into the stockpile. Additional testing and excavation is continuing, including the placement of several additional test pits to verify the extent of contamination.
- The stockpile will be analyzed and then stabilized with soil tackifier to minimize the release of dust. Following completion of backfill and soil stabilization demobilization will begin. The remaining soil stockpile will be sampled and analyzed to verify the level of contamination and volume. When that data collection is complete an analysis of hazards and alternatives will be generated and reviewed; at that time public comment will be solicited.

Additional information regarding the Site can be found at:

<http://www.is.mines.edu/ehs/CSMRI/CSMRI2007.htm>.

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