

# NPL Site Narrative for Monticello Radioactively Contaminated Properties

## MONTICELLO RADIOACTIVELY CONTAMINATED PROPERTIES Monticello, Utah

**Conditions at proposal (October 15, 1984):** The Town of Monticello (population about 2,000) in San Juan County in southeastern Utah is the site of a mill that processed vanadium and uranium ore from 1942 to 1960. Contractors operated the mill for the Federal government. Prior to the mid-1970s, radioactive tailings were widely dispersed throughout the town. Some appear to have been used as fill material and as aggregate for mortar and concrete, while others appear to have been carried from the mill by wind and water. Recently, residents have indicated that some of the radioactive materials may have also originated at another mill in Dry Valley, approximately 25 miles northeast of Monticello.

Various agencies, including EPA, the State Health Department, and the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), have conducted radiological surveys of town properties. Above-background levels of radioactivity were detected during each survey. USDOE has authorized cleanup of 15 properties and is studying several more for inclusion in its Site Restoration Program. However, USDOE may lack the authority to clean up properties contaminated by materials brought in from the mill in Dry Valley.

**Status (June 10, 1986):** USDOE studies are underway, and remedial work has begun at some properties. The USDOE program is expected to extend through 1987.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.