

# NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

## Uravan Uranium Project (Union Carbide Corp.) Uravan, Colorado

On February 18, 2005, EPA deleted a portion of the Uravan Uranium Project (Union Carbide) Superfund site from the National Priorities List (NPL). The site is located in western Colorado in the western portion of Montrose County on Highway 141 approximately 13 miles northwest of the Town of Nucla. The majority of the town of Uravan was demolished during remedial activities. This partial deletion pertains to 9.84 acres containing two historic structures, the Boarding House and the Community Center.

The Boarding House is located at the intersection of County Roads Y-11 and EE-22, east of the former Uravan Mill site. The structure was built around 1914 to provide meals and housing to employees. In 1971 housing was discontinued, and in 1982 meal service was terminated. The Community Center is located across County Road EE-22 from the Boarding House and was built in the mid 1930s from a sugar factory dismantled in Delta, Colorado. The building served as a multipurpose recreation center for employees. Recently, it has been used to store historical artifacts that will be displayed once the buildings are deleted from the NPL.

In 1994, radon levels in the Boarding House and the Community Center were below a working level standard of 0.03. In 1995, elevated radium 226 concentrations were identified in the soils beneath and surrounding both buildings. In 1997, elevated radon measurements were obtained in the basement of the Community Center. Also in 1997, an excavation was conducted along the east end of the Community Center to determine the depth of the contaminated soil and to examine the foundation. Results showed that the depth of contamination extended six to eight feet below the surface.

The buildings contained radioactive contamination and were constructed on soils exceeding cleanup standards. To preserve the structures as a historical resource, the following remediation plan was adopted: removing the most significant contamination from within the structures; removing soils underlying and immediately surrounding the buildings without endangering the stability of the foundations; restoring the buildings; remediating the soils outside the immediate vicinity of the buildings; and installing a radon mitigation system in the Community Center.

Contaminants were removed from the two structures starting in 1993. In 1998, contaminated material was excavated from the exterior perimeter of the Boarding House and Community Center. The soil directly in contact with the foundations was left undisturbed. Geotextile fabric was placed over the undisturbed foundation support soils to identify the contact between the undisturbed soils and the uncontaminated backfill soils. Restoration of the exterior of the Boarding House was completed in 2000. The porch, east side concrete staircase, and landing slab were removed. Underlying contaminated soils were excavated and the area was backfilled. The concrete landing was replaced and the porch and staircase were rebuilt. An active radon mitigation system was installed in the Community Center to remove radon gas from the soils beneath the basement and vent it outside via small fans. This system is designed to be operational 24 hours per day, seven days per week and has a built-in-alarm system should the fans stop working.

The remedial activities conducted within and around the Boarding House and Community Center successfully removed and isolated radioactive materials. Institutional controls, in the form of an environmental covenant granted to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, will

prevent activities that might cause contact with radioactive materials on both the exterior and interior of the structures. The environmental covenant also requires an annual inspection of the radon mitigation system. Since contamination exists at concentrations that do not allow for unrestricted and unlimited use, EPA will continue to conduct Five Year Reviews of the site. The next Five Year Review is scheduled for completion in 2005.

The EPA, with concurrence of the State of Colorado, has determined that all appropriate responses under CERCLA have been completed for the 9.84 acres containing two historic structures. Therefore, EPA is deleting this portion of the Uravan Uranium Project (Union Carbide) Superfund site from the NPL.