

NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

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

On September 4, 2007, EPA deleted approximately 7 acres within the Uravan site from the National Priorities List (NPL). The Uravan 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 town of Uravan was demolished during remedial activities at the site. This partial deletion pertains to a one mile section of Colorado State Highway 141, comprised of a right-of-way up to 60 feet in width between mile posts 75 and 76.

A curve in State Highway 141 between mile posts 75 and 76 was identified as having significant safety issues related to its design. Approximately one mile of road bed containing radioactive materials was exposed during the road realignment. The contractor for the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) removed contaminated debris and excavated contaminated soils from specified areas within the highway right-of-way. These materials were removed and relocated to a secure on-site repository on Club Mesa for long-term isolation. Approximately 51,000 cubic yards of contaminated materials were removed from the CDOT right-of-way and an additional 2,800 cubic yards were removed from Umetco's property adjacent to the right-of-way.

All material excavated from the roadway was dry and above the watertable. There was a sharp boundary between the tailings material and the native soils. Contaminated materials did not migrate into the soils or into the groundwater in the roadway area. Once the contaminated materials were removed, the area was backfilled and regraded. All disturbed areas were graded to blend with the surrounding topography.

The remedial actions attained the goal of unrestricted use of the property. Future institutional controls or future site inspections are not warranted in the Highway 141 project.

EPA, with concurrence from the State of Colorado, has determined that all appropriate responses under CERCLA have been completed for the approximately 7 acres within the Uravan site to protect human health and the environment and that no further response action by responsible parties is required. Therefore, EPA is deleting the one mile section of State Highway 141 between mile posts 75 and 76 of the Uravan site from the NPL.