

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 16-26

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE
FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY URANIUM DISPOSAL SITE**

Recitals:

The City of Grand Junction has a long history associated with energy production. The former Grand Junction Processing Site was located along the north bank of the Colorado River on land owned by the City of Grand Junction. Initial operations began in 1899 as a sugar beet mill, and in 1950 the Climax Uranium Company converted the facility into a uranium and vanadium mill, which operated until 1970; and

During approximately nineteen years of operation, the mill produced an estimated 2.2 million tons of radioactive tailings. Following closure of the mill, these tailings were widely used throughout the City and surrounding communities as fill material beneath sidewalks, around water and sewer infrastructure, and under building foundations; and

The City has since redeveloped the former mill site into a recreation and business park that has revitalized the riverfront and contributed to economic development. This redevelopment was made possible, in part, by the availability of a nearby permanent uranium disposal site; and

Since the late 1990s, the City has operated an interim tailings storage facility at its Municipal Operations Center to temporarily store radioactive materials encountered during the reconstruction of aging infrastructure and buildings across the Western Slope; and

Every two to three years, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) opens the Cheney Disposal Cell, and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs reimburses the City for transporting radioactive materials from the City's interim facility to the permanent disposal site; and

The continued operation of the Grand Junction Uranium Disposal Site provides the City and surrounding communities with a safe, designated location for the permanent disposal of mill tailings and other radioactive materials, thereby reducing risks to public health and preventing contamination in populated areas; and

The Grand Junction Uranium Disposal Site currently has the capacity to accept more than 200,000 additional cubic yards of radioactive material; and

Absent federal reauthorization, the Grand Junction Uranium Disposal Site is scheduled to close beginning next year; and

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is requesting federal reauthorization of the disposal site until it reaches full capacity; and

If the disposal site were to close, private and commercial property owners would be required to transport contaminated materials to the Clive Disposal Facility in Utah and pay substantial disposal fees, estimated at approximately \$2,000 per ton, which could create financial hardship and increase the risk of illegal dumping of radioactive materials on local lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION THAT:

The City Council hereby expresses its support for the federal legislation to reauthorize funding for the Department of Energy Grand Junction Uranium Disposal Site.

The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Colorado's congressional delegation and other appropriate federal and state agencies to express the City Council's support for reauthorization of funding for the Department of Energy Grand Junction Uranium Disposal Site.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 4th day of February 2026.



Cody Kennedy
President of the City Council

Attest:





Selestina Sandoval
City Clerk